



MEAN RUF - Presidents

THE WARRIOR

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ACCREDITATION

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Alma Mater

Dear Alma Mater we sing thy praise,
In sweet remembrance of our college days;
Comrades and teachers, friends so true,
We give our love to you;
Long may we cherish the days spent with thee,
Happy days of dreams, work and play so carefree;
Deep in our hearts rest your memories true,
Here's all our love to you.

On the Cover: ECCC'S FIRST FAMILY

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart and his wife, Stephanie, are shown with their children (from left) Will, Emily, Elizabeth and Stephen, near the College lake. Dr. Stewart began his role as the College's Eighth President on July 1, 2012.

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From the Desk of the President *Dr. Billy Stewart*

Someone once said that change is inevitable - except from a vending machine. Well I don't know about the latter part of that adage but I can testify to the former. Yes, change is inevitable and that truth applies to organizations as well as individuals. East Central Community College is in the midst of many changes with the retirement of key leadership, and from all indications it seems that the ECCC family is embracing these changes.

This is my first President's Message to the alumni and friends of East Central Community College since I assumed the duties of the Office of President on July 1, 2012. As such, I feel the pressure to share something thoughtful or profound in order to make a good first impression. However, I am reminded of a piece of advice my wife once gave me when I was scheduled to speak to a civic group just a few weeks ago. She said, "Look Billy, don't try to be smart, don't try to be cute, don't try to be funny. Just be yourself." Well, I think I knew what she meant, but nonetheless, it is a great piece of advice. So if you will allow me, I will just be myself.

I have had no greater professional honor than the one I received on March 20, 2012, when the Board of Trustees named me the eighth president of this great institution. The confidence and trust they displayed and continue to display in me means the world. Each day I walk through the door of Vincent Administration Building I remind myself that only seven other men (at this point in history) have held the Office of President at ECCC. That fact does not swell my head with pride, rather it causes me to bow my head in humility that I have been entrusted with such a great responsibility. I also remind myself each day I walk through the door, that this is not about me. I am surrounded by men and women, faculty and staff, who care deeply about this college and want to see it succeed through service to our students and our communities. It is truly an honor to serve with them and it excites me and motivates me to work as hard as I possibly can each day.

I also have the greatest family the Lord has ever created (at least in my eyes). I have been married to my best friend, Stephanie Morris Stewart, for almost 20 years. I told her when she married me in 1992 I would take her places. I just don't think she knew I meant Flowood, Starkville, Wesson, Brookhaven, Magee, Wiggins, and Decatur! When she took the vow to "go where you and lodge where you lodge," she meant it, and I am grateful. We have been blessed with four wonderful children. Our oldest son, Stephen, is a gifted musician who plays the guitar, trombone, xylophone, and marimba. He is in the eleventh grade at Newton County High School and plays in the band. Our son, Will, is a talented tennis player and is in the tenth grade at Newton County High School. He is also the family entertainer. Our daughter, Elizabeth (we call her Lizzie), is a seventh grader at Newton County Middle School and plays basketball and tennis. She enjoys mission trips to minister to the needs of others. Finally, our youngest child, Emily, is a fourth grader at Newton County Elementary School. She is very creative and loves to draw and roller skate.

Since I began this great adventure in July, I have made many ob-



servations. First, ECCC has the greatest student body in the state of Mississippi. Each day I walk around the campus, students greet me with a hello and a smile or reply to me with a "Good morning" or "Good afternoon." They are polite and well-mannered and what a privilege it is to be their president. Second, ECCC has a very talented group of faculty members who have the opportunity to interact with these students each day. Their focus and emphasis is on teaching and learning. I think if you asked each one what they teach, each one would reply, "Students." While they are certainly the subject-matter experts, they teach students, they teach people. And they are quite skillful at their

craft. Third, ECCC staff and administrators strive to provide the best possible programs and services for our students. I believe that each one knows that we are here to serve and support and when a student succeeds, we all succeed. As a matter of fact, this edition of *The Warrior* magazine highlights significant achievements and success of our students, both past and present. And we are all proud of them.

One of the things the Board of Trustees asked me during the interview process was my vision for ECCC. I responded that if I told them my vision for ECCC at that time then I would be arrogant seeing as I do not know the campus, the community, or the people very well. However, I told them I would be irresponsible if I did not have a plan to develop a vision for our College. Therefore, I am pleased to share with you that we have embarked on a planning process to develop 2020 Vision for ECCC. The plan's name has two distinct meanings. First, 20/20 vision is perfect, clear, and acute. We want our strategic plan to be a clear roadmap to get us where we want to be, so we will know when we get there. Second, we are asking ourselves what we want ECCC to look like in the year 2020. The planning process has begun and will continue to be a collaborative effort providing opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and citizens across our five-county service area to come together and imagine the future. We hope to include big, hopeful ideas that don't get talked about in everyday conversation. Please be on the lookout for a visit to your community by members of the ECCC family to gather your feedback and ideas to develop 2020 Vision.

I want to thank the Homecoming Committees who have been working diligently to prepare for Homecoming 2012. We anticipate a day filled with fun activities and on their behalf I want to welcome those of you who are able to attend. I also want to extend my congratulations to our 2012 Homecoming Honorees as well as the newest members of the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame. Each one is featured in this edition of *The Warrior*.

Finally, East Central truly is a "community" college so you are welcome on our campus at any time. As we move through these next few years of change and opportunity, we look back with pride on our past and those who worked so hard to develop a firm foundation for our institution. It is on that foundation that we build both our present and our future. And, we look forward to a bright future with great expectancy considering the wonderful things we can and will accomplish—together! It is GREAT to be a WARRIOR!!

Homecoming 2012

SEPTEMBER 29

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR
Carole Pace Henry
Class of 1957

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
Wallace Strickland
Class of 1967

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
Granville Freeman
Class of 1967

Tommy McCullough
Class of 1958

Cast of the 1992 Spring Musical
"The 1940s Radio Hour"
Classes of 1957-1958-1959
Class of 1962
Classes of 1979-1980-1981
Classes of 1986-1987-1988
1981 and 1982 Football Teams

SPECIAL HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES PLANNED

East Central Community College will host its 2012 Homecoming celebration on Saturday, September 29, announced Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director for Foundation and Alumni Relations.

Activities begin with the annual 5K Run/Walk, which will be held at 7:30 a.m. on the College's North Campus. Registration begins at 7 a.m.

The Memorabilia Room and Campus Bookstore will open at 9 a.m. and Homecoming registration begins at 10 a.m. on the East Mall Patio near Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

The annual Alumni Luncheon begins at 11 a.m. in Mabry Cafeteria, during which recipients of Alumni Association Awards will be recognized. New Alumni Association officers will also be elected.

Reunion groups are scheduled to meet at 1 p.m. at Bailey Stadium. They include the Classes of 1957, '58 and '59, Classes of 1979, '80 and '81, Classes of 1986, '87 and '88 and the Class of 1962, which will celebrate its Golden Anniversary and receive special 50th anniversary diplomas. Also reuniting are members of the 1981 and 1982 Warrior Football Teams and the cast of the 1992 spring musical production "The 1940s Radio Hour."

The annual Warrior Club meeting and Lil' Warrior Kid Zone will also be held at the stadium. The Kid Zone will be open from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The Warrior football team will host Hinds Community College in a 2:30 p.m. matchup.

Halftime activities will include recognition of alumni honorees, the presentation of the Queen and her court and a full performance by the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

For more information, contact Hollingsworth at 601-635-6327 or toll free 1-877-462-3222, ext. 327. The e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7 a.m.	Registration for 5K Run/Walk <i>North Campus Pavilion</i> (Run Starts at 7:30 a.m.)
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Memorabilia Room Open <i>Burton Library</i>
	Bookstore Open <i>Smith Student Union</i>
10 a.m.	Homecoming Registration Begins <i>East Mall Patio Near Mabry Memorial Cafeteria</i>
11 a.m.	Alumni Luncheon <i>Mabry Memorial Cafeteria</i>
1 p.m.	Reunion Groups Meet <i>Bailey Stadium</i> Classes of 1957-1958-1959 Class of 1962 Classes of 1979-1980-1981 Classes of 1986-1987-1988 1981 and 1982 Football Teams 1992 Spring Musical Cast- <i>The 1940s Radio Hour</i>
	Warrior Club Tailgating/Meeting <i>Bailey Stadium</i>
1:30 p.m.	Awarding of 50th Anniversary Diplomas <i>Bailey Stadium</i>
2:30 p.m.	ECCC vs. Hinds Football Game <i>Bailey Stadium</i> Recognition of Homecoming Honorees Presentation of Queen/Court Performance by Wall O' Sound Band



Wallace Strickland

"Alumnus of the Year"

'Humbled and honored' is how Wallace Strickland of Meridian described his feelings after being named 2012 "Alumnus of the Year" at East Central Community College in Decatur.

"East Central Community College, or East Central Junior College as it was known when I was a student, has a very special place in my heart," Strickland said. "The coursework and dedicated instructors at ECJC truly prepared me to advance in my education and ultimately my life's work."

That life's work has been a 42-year career with Rush Health Systems, Inc. in Meridian. Strickland currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer for the health system that is made up of seven hospitals and employs approximately 3500 residents of east Mississippi and west Alabama. In addition, Rush Medical Group, Medical Foundation and Specialty Hospital have more than 175 physicians and mid-level practitioners in nearly 30 locations.

ECCC alumnus Cheryl Comans, who nominated Strickland for the award wrote "Throughout my association with Mr. Strickland, I have been well aware of his pride in having attended East Central and his dedication to and support of the college. His assistance with various aspects of health-related programs and the provision of a trainer for all sports programs are notable. Many professional, civic and community organizations have also benefited from Mr. Strickland's dedication to the betterment of East Central Mississippi."

In a letter endorsing his nomination, Dr. John Mutziger of the Decatur Family Medical Center, a division of Rush Health Systems, said, "I believe it is due to the foresight and



Wallace Strickland
Class of 1967

vision of Mr. Strickland that we have been able to establish a modern family practice clinic with three providers here in Decatur. This would not have been done without his help."

Mutziger continued, "I count him as a friend as well as business associate and boss. We are lucky at Rush Health Systems to have him here. I can think of no one else who comes close to fitting the qualifications as East Central Community College Alumnus of the Year."

Strickland began his career in the account-

ing department and worked his way through the ranks at Rush. It's a career path that he said definitely made an impact on his leadership.

"I believe it has given me greater opportunities to value and respect our employees for the contributions they make. We are very fortunate at Rush to have many dedicated employees who have worked in the organization for decades. When you have worked alongside people for many years, and worked together with them to take care of patients, learn new technology and expand services, you come to value and respect them in a very special way, especially when you see them persevere through difficult times or work through difficult situations together with them. They become your 'work family.'"

Of his leadership style, Strickland said, "I believe in servant leadership, attention to detail and that the buck stops with me."

Healthcare is an ever-changing industry and Strickland said he has been fortunate to witness much change and many advances.

"My career in healthcare has encompassed a very exciting period of time in medicine, during which a great deal of technological advances have been made. During that time, Rush Health Systems has grown and changed tremendously as well."

When Strickland began his tenure with Rush, he said there were no fax machines or computers. Rush Hospital and Rush Medical Group, which then consisted of nine physicians, were the sole basis of the operation. Today, he said computers are used in almost every aspect of the business, including many key aspects of patient care.

"The challenge for us in our industry is to

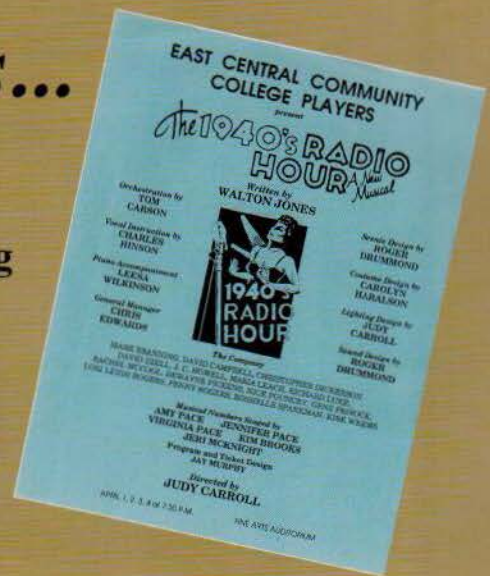
In the top photo, Strickland (right) talks with Rush Health Systems employees (from left) Cathy Robinson, compliance officer, and Darrell Wildman, treasurer.

See STRICKLAND, Next Page

Calling all Cast Members...

A Special Reunion for the cast of the 1992 Spring Musical Production “The 1940s Radio Hour” during Homecoming activities September 29, 2012.

For more information contact the Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327 or cast member Maria Leach McLeod at 601-635-6303. The e-mail addresses are sholling@eccc.edu or mmcleod@eccc.edu.



STRICKLAND (continued from previous page)

keep the human aspects of all we do in perspective as we make technological advances. While everything surrounding us may change as far as technology is concerned, the people aspect doesn't change. At the heart of every action is a patient who needs our care and behind every piece of technology we operate is a person, our employee, who needs to be focused on the needs of the patient, and appropriately trained to do the job."

For his success in the healthcare industry, Strickland gives much praise to his Rush predecessor,

"I have been and continue to be strongly influenced and greatly blessed by an outstanding gentleman who has served as a mentor and inspiration to me and to many others, Mr. J.C. McElroy, Jr.," Strickland said.

"Mr. McElroy saw promise in me, gave me opportunities to advance and learn, and taught me so many important management techniques and skills that have helped me learn and grow in my career and in my life. He leads by example and takes time to help others develop the best in themselves. As the current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Rush Health Systems, he is still looked to for guidance and sound advice. Mr. McElroy retired from Rush Health Systems in 1999, but in his role as board chairman, he continues to inspire with innovative ideas and great leadership. I will be forever grateful for his confidence in me and his support and guidance."

Perhaps the greatest influence was from his parents, the late Larn and Geneva Strickland, who instilled in him a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility.

"They also instilled in me a love of our home where I grew up just outside of Decatur. My parents felt it was important to get a college education and then to find an employer where you could be loyal and dedicated," he said. "I would also like to mention my late uncle, James Vance, also an ECCC graduate, and the role he played in showing a young man

from Decatur that a college education was a possibility."

A member of the Class of 1967, Strickland said it was the accessibility and affordability of East Central that allowed him to begin his college career.

"Had I not been able to begin my college studies close to home, with affordable tuition, I would not have pursued higher education," Strickland said. "East Central prepared me for and allowed me to compete in the business world. Had it not been for my two years at East Central, I would never have accomplished things I have thus far."

Strickland said he worked two jobs and lived at home while attending East Central and although he was limited on extracurricular activities, it was the people he met while attending East Central that are the highlight of his time as a student.

Of his instructors at East Central, Strickland said, "I have always felt a huge debt of gratitude to those at ECJC who inspired a very shy young man from Decatur, Mississippi, to pursue his education. Those instructors also helped me build my self-confidence. When talking about my educational background, I always say that my instructors at ECJC were some of the best, if not the best I had anywhere, even in graduate school. I am reluctant to mention specific people, however, I would be remiss if I didn't mention these individuals: Ovid Vickers, the best professor period; Frank Leatherwood, one of the most dedicated professors; and Frank Cross, a very inspiring professor."

Strickland continued his education at Mississippi State University, where he received a bachelor's degree, and completed the MBA at the University of Alabama.

He was honored recently by having the Wallace Strickland/Rush Health Systems Endowed Scholarship established at the College in his honor by Newton Community Health Foundation and Rush Health Systems. He was selected Meridian Star Citizen of the Year in

2006 and is a member of the Meridian Community College Hall of Fame.

In addition, he serves as chairman of the Medicaid Hospital Advisory Board; member of the Board of Directors for Great Southern National Bank; board member for the State Games of Mississippi; past chairman of the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation (2005); and Past President of the Mississippi Medical Group Management Association (1976).

Strickland is married to the former Judy Morland of Meridian. They have two children, Julie and Jason.

"I am proud to say my entire immediate family is or has been a part of the Rush family of caregivers," Strickland said. "My wife, Judy, worked for 23 years, until 1995, when she decided to stay home to be more involved in our children's school and sports activities. As data processing director, Judy played an integral role at Rush during the 1980s and 90s when so many advances were being made in technology, especially in the area of computerization of all our business functions.

"Our daughter, Julie Marie, is a registered pharmacist who works at H.C. Watkins Memorial Hospital in Quitman and our son, Jason, works in Business Services as the Third Party Payor Audit coordinator, having started his career in an entry-level position much like the role I started in. It is very gratifying to have my children choose careers in the healthcare field and have the opportunity to work with them."

In addition, Strickland's sister, Neva Joe Pettigrew, and her daughter, Jennifer Lafferty, both family nurse practitioners, work at Immediate Care Clinic and Marion Primary Care Center, respectively.

Strickland will be honored along with additional award recipients during the College's annual Alumni Awards Luncheon, scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 29, 2012, during the annual Homecoming festivities.



Carole Pace Henry

"Alumna of the Year"

Spending time on the campus of East Central Community College is something Carole Pace Henry of Madison began doing at age two when her aunt took her for her first campus visit.

"My grandmother (Inez Gaines) lived right across the street from campus and I spent a lot of time while I was growing up playing and spending time on campus," Henry said. "East Central is a place that has always been special to me and my family."

Henry was recently named Alumna of the Year for the College that's so close to her heart, ECCC.

"I was really shocked and surprised," Henry said about receiving the prestigious honor. "It was just unbelievable because I never even thought that would happen. It is really one of the best things in my life because I love East Central so much."

"I am very grateful for this unbelievable award and I just wish my aunts, mother and father could have been here with me to see this. I couldn't have done any of this without all of my longtime friends and supporters. This couldn't have happened at a greater time in my life. I am just so thankful."

Henry comes from a family with a long history with the College.

"I spent most of my life at EC," Henry said. "Every one of my aunts except one and my mother all went to ECCC."

As a child, Henry was selected on three separate occasions to serve as a flower girl in the May Day Program at ECJC, which Henry said is some of her fondest childhood memories.



Carole Pace Henry
Class of 1957

Just as she had as a child, when Henry began attending college at ECJC, she continued being an active part of the campus-life.

A member of East Central Junior College Class of 1957, Henry was involved in many activities and assumed many leadership roles on campus. She was editor-in-chief of the Wo-He-Lo yearbook her sophomore year and features editor her freshman year. Henry had also worked on the Wo-He-Lo during her high school years at then Newton County Agricultural

High School, before it became Decatur High School.

"I actually was on the Wo-He-Lo staff for four years because I worked on it when I was in high school. We went to 11th and 12th grade at the College," she said.

Ovid Vickers, who served as faculty adviser for the Wo-He-Lo at the time of Henry's rein as editor-in-chief, wrote in a letter nominating Henry for the honor of Alumna of the Year, "In working with Carole in the production of the Wo-He-Lo, I found her to be a diligent worker and extremely dedicated to producing a yearbook which the student body could appreciate for years to come..."

"Her enthusiasm, energy, and pleasant personality made her a favorite among the student body. Although she was very popular, she never neglected her course work and graduated with an excellent academic record."

Henry's schoolmate, Jeanette B. Thrash, ECJC Class of 1958, wrote in a letter nominating Henry for the honor of Alumna of the Year that Henry excelled in clubs and organizations throughout the campus.

"Her infectious smile was seen all over campus...Her outstanding leadership ability was evident. She was a joy to know and a friend to all," Thrash wrote.

Henry served as secretary of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She was a member of Sigma Tau Sigma, band, ECJC Players, girls' and mixed choirs and ensemble.

She was the first female in the College's history to receive the Social Science Award.

Henry said many of the teachers and administrators during her time at ECJC influ-

In the above photo, Henry is shown in the East Mall area of the ECCC campus.

See HENRY, Next Page

6th Annual Homecoming 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Entry Fee: \$20 Per Participant • T-Shirt and Medallion Presented to all Participants

Run/Walk Starts at 7:30 a.m. on the North Campus near Clark/Gay Baseball Complex and the course runs throughout the campus.

For more information contact Dr. Phillip Crenshaw at 601-635-2111, ext. 281 or e-mail pcrenshaw@eccc.edu

Mail completed form and entry fee to the ECCC Alumni Association, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327

Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Sex: _____ Age on Race Day: _____

I know that running/walking a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run/walk. I assume all risks associated with running/walking in this event including, but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, including heat and/or humidity, traffic and the conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release East Central Community College and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participating in this event. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.

Date _____

Signature (Parent or Guardian if Under 18) _____

Please Circle: 5K Run or 5K Walk T-Shirt Size: Small Medium Large X-Large

HENRY (continued from previous page)

enced her life and career path. She said she recalls many fond memories from her college days relating to her interaction with them.

"Ms. Ethel Burton (librarian) let me check out books from the time I was in sixth grade and wasn't even at ECCC yet," Henry said, with a laugh.

Arno Vincent served as Henry's adviser at ECJC.

"Mr. Vincent was really wonderful and someone who influenced me," she said.

Henry recalled other teachers of influence, Robert Fick, who taught band and choir; and Dr. Dan Chapman, who taught history, "really prepared me to go to college in so many ways," she said.

"Mr. Vickers was a great influence on me," Henry said, recalling that she was in his first English class.

Another mentor for Henry was Lucille Wood. "She called me 'Mickey,' during her physical education class because I loved Mickey Mantle."

"One of my highlights at ECJC was going on a trip with Mr. Fick to Florida to sing in the Florida Dome," Henry said. "We went down there for a week. It was a very close group."

Henry said a big past time during her college days at ECJC was playing cards.

"We would all get together and play pinochle," Henry said. "Some of the professors would even play with us and taught some of us how to play. We played all the time in the Student Center. That was our big game. We played (pinochle) with Dr. Chapman and Mr. James Bobo and many of the teachers who were there then."

After graduating from ECJC, Henry transferred to the Mississippi State College for Women, where she earned a degree in history and was a Dean's list scholar.

After college, Henry began teaching in House Springs, Mo., where she taught for one year before moving to California, where she would spend her career-long tenure of teaching.

She worked at Compton Junior High School for 31 years, where she was the cheerleader advisor and helped lead her school to win two Freedom Foundation Awards. She was named Teacher of the Year in her school district and was awarded a national Outstanding Teacher Award. Henry served as vice-president of The Teachers Association for two years.

Henry has always been an avid sports fan and during her time at Compton Junior High School, she was the only woman who has ever served on the board of the community football league, the Jack Frost Football League.

Lastly, Henry taught at Stern Middle School for 12 years in Bakersfield, Calif., before retiring after serving 44 years as an educator. She credits her achievements in her career to her family, friends and co-workers.

"I thank all those wonderful people who made it possible for me to teach and helped me along the way," Henry said. "My wonderful husband, Paul, he just made things work for me. All those kids that I taught... they were such a blessing in my life and as a result, I have many friends who live all over the country now."

In regards to the spiritual influences in her life, Henry said she was most influenced by her grandmothers.

"My grandmothers, Lizzie Pace and Inez Gaines, were strong influences on my life," Henry said. Henry lived with her grandmother, Lizzie Pace, after Henry's mother died when she was just eight years old.

Although Henry's life led her to California, she has never forgotten her home in Decatur and at ECJC. She has been a life-long supporter of ECCC and has returned nearly every single year for the College's homecoming. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the endowed scholarship in honor of the ECJC classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959.

Following the death of her husband, Paul, Henry returned from California to her home state, Mississippi. She resides in Madison where she is actively involved in her church ministry at Ridgecrest Baptist Church. She serves on the governing committee in charge of the church's day care program and children's ministry, is a member of the Vision Team and served on the church's task force for one year. She is an assistant to the preschool Sunday morning program, an annual Vacation Bible School volunteer and is a weekly greeter on Sunday morning.

She most recently took part in WinShape Camp for Community that works with children across America, Henry said.

Henry is the step-daughter of Jessie Pace of Decatur. She is the daughter of the late Robin and Mary George Pace of Decatur. She is the sister of Jan Pace Hayes and David Pace. She has four step-children, seven grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.



Granville Freeman

"Athletic Hall of Fame"

Granville Freeman was a standout member of the 1965 and 1966 East Central Community College football teams.

The speedy halfback and defensive back garnered All-Star and honorable mention All-State honors after helping lead the Warriors to a combined 11-8-1 record under head coach Dan Chatwood.

The former Morton High School star caught the attention of several four-year colleges and universities to continue his athletic career after East Central but instead chose to concentrate on his academic studies and career.

And what a stellar "first" career he had at Lake High School, where the then 26-year-old head football coach not only led the 1974 Hornets to an undefeated season at 11-0, the talented squad was unscored upon and unchallenged while racking up 321 points – 32.1 points per game (the final win of the remarkable season was via forfeit).

Freeman and team members were recognized by the 2012 Mississippi Legislature prior to reunion activities held earlier this year "to celebrate and reminisce about the "un" team's remarkable season.

Freeman is also being recognized for his success on the gridiron by the ECCC Alumni Association, which recently announced his selection to the Athletic Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be held during the Alumni Association Luncheon at Homecoming activities scheduled Saturday, September 29 in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus.

When contacted about receiving the prestigious award, Freeman said he found himself at



Granville Freeman
Class of 1967

a loss for words, obviously an unusual situation for the Forest resident who recently observed more than 30 years as a State Farm Insurance agent.

"It's overwhelming," Freeman said of the honor. "The Athletic Hall of Fame is a very, very unique group...it's like being awarded a blue ribbon; they don't give but one. Words cannot describe the feeling."

Freeman's accomplishments on the football field began at Morton High School, where

he provided many memorable moments for Panther fans.

His proudest moment probably came in the 1964 game with Brandon, when Freeman, at 5-10, 117 pounds, scored all of Morton's points, which included a 99 ½ yard interception return. But Freeman did more than just return the pigskin for a score; he added a little "showboating" during the run.

"When I got to about midfield, I turned around and starting running backwards toward the end zone while waving to the Brandon fans," Freeman laughed while recalling the special moment. "The fans went wild, of course... but Coach (Dale) Brasher (head coach) and Coach (Jack) Taylor (assistant) were not amused one bit. Let's just say I never pulled such a stunt again!"

Freeman was a four-year letter-winner at Morton and was selected team captain and best back. He was an honorable mention All Little Dixie Conference selection and played in the Mississippi High School All-Star Game in 1965.

He also excelled in track and twice won the 100-yard dash in state competition. His best time in the event was clocked at 10 seconds flat!

Freeman's athletic abilities caught the attention of several college coaches, especially then Warrior head coach Tommy Guthrie who offered him a scholarship. But when Freeman arrived at East Central, a coaching change was made and Dan Chatwood was head coach.

Unbeknown to Freeman and the other signees, scholarship offers were made "to about 200 players," he recalled, "but only 30 players

In the top photo, Granville Freeman is shown (at left) during his playing days on the Decatur campus and (at right) displaying the trophy his 1974 Lake High School team received following their historic season.

See FREEMAN, Next Page

Mark Your Calendar!

Homecoming activities have been scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012

Reunion Groups Include:

Classes of 1957-1958-1959 • Class of 1962 • Classes of 1979-1980-1981
Classes of 1986-1987-1988 • 1981 and 1982 Football Teams
1992 Spring Musical Cast-The 1940s Radio Hour



FREEMAN (continued from previous page)

would receive scholarships."

Freeman said he can still remember hearing the conversation between Coach Chatwood and his assistant, Hansel King.

"Coach King said, 'Dan, what are we going to do with this many football players and so few scholarships?' And Coach Dan replied, 'We're going to run a bunch of them off.'"

Freeman clearly remembers turning to teammate Keith Holt and stating, "Keith, we're in for a treat, brother. We're in for a treat! And sure enough, we were in for a treat!"

Freeman "survived" his freshman season and helped lead the Warriors to a 7-3 record.

Highlights included a 13-6 win over archrival East Mississippi, led by the legendary Coach "Bull" Sullivan.

Freeman helped set up East Central's first touchdown when he intercepted a pass near midfield and returned the ball to the Lions' 15-yard-line.

Another highlight came in a 15-12 upset of nationally ranked Holmes Community College. Freeman's interception of a Holmes pass during a two-point conversion attempt following a late first half score allowed the Warriors to maintain an 8-6 margin at halftime.

The 1965 Warriors also recorded victories over Southwest (6-2), Northwest (14-13), Hinds (28-7), Delta (10-8) and Itawamba (17-0). The lone setbacks were to Gulf Coast (18-14), Pearl River (27-9) and Jones (10-6).

Freeman returned his sophomore season as a married man. He and his wife, the former Diane Turner of Morton, and Keith Holt and wife Glenda moved into the old Army barracks, which was designated for married students and staff.

Chatwood was still head coach and Ken Pouncey was added to the coaching staff.

Freeman said being a married member of the football team brought many challenges.

"Coach Chatwood thought the two married football players would be more physically fit to handle two-a-day and three-a-day workouts if they stayed in the athletic dorm with the rest of the football team," said Freeman. "So we moved out of the married apartments and left our wives there."

However, it did not take long for Freeman to come up with a plan so he and Keith could visit their wives at night.

"I noticed that the fire escape ladder outside the athletic dorm was left down each night due to work being done on the building," Freeman recalled. "So late at night we would slip out and stay with our wives until about 5:30. But

one night

while going down the ladder we were greeted by Coach Pouncey...we obviously did not get to stay with our wives that night!"

However, Freeman said arrangements were later made to accommodate the two married couples.

The 1966 team was not as successful as the previous year but the Warriors did manage to register a second straight victory over rival East Mississippi by an impressive 24-7 margin. Other victories were recorded with Hinds (16-13), Pearl River (24-7) and Co-Lin (21-20). EC fell to Gulf Coast (33-20), Holmes (13-3), Jones (14-0), Delta (20-7) and Northwest (17-14). The Warriors and Itawamba tied at 14-14.

In the win over Scooba, Freeman amassed 92 yards from his wingback position. His 77-yard jaunt helped set up a Warrior touchdown.

Freeman and Holt, a defensive lineman, signed scholarships with Livingston State College (now Livingston University) but Freeman decided to forego the opportunity since housing was not available for the married couple.

He was later offered a scholarship at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he was asked to red-shirt his first season. Freeman decided to forego that opportunity as well and enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he concentrated solely on academics.

After earning a bachelor's degree in physical education at mid-year of the 1968-1969 term, Freeman began his career in the spring of 1969 as a teacher at Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis, Tenn. The following year he served as football and track coach and taught classes at Clinton (La.) High School. He held similar duties at Amite (La.) High School from 1970-73.

But it was at Lake High School, where the Freeman coaching legacy began in 1973.

He still remembers the conversation he had with then principal Huey Stone during the job interview:

"Well, it's up to you, Mr. Stone," Freeman said. "If you want a championship football program at Lake, you'll hire me. If you don't, go ahead and hire somebody else."

Stone hired Freeman but probably questioned his decision prior to the start of the 1973 season, when after three weeks of three-a-day practices, the squad was down to nine football players. Freeman was able to convince another 13 players to join the squad when classes started. He dubbed that first Lake team as "The Magnificent 22." The '73 team posted a 10-1

record. And another game was not lost for five years!

Victories from the record-breaking 1974 season are as follows: Choctaw Central (18-0), West Lauderdale, (20-0), Stringer (40-0), Beulah Hubbard (30-0), Sebastopol (50-0), Hickory (42-0), Scott Central (20-0), Nanih Waiya (30-0), Clarkdale (20-0), Edinburg (38-0) and French Camp (forfeit).

Only one team came close to scoring on the Hornets in 1974. But the late Willie "Moochie" Wiedman nixed the attempt when the 140-pound nose guard blocked a short field goal attempt in the game's final moments. The "unseason" was preserved!

Freeman's following three teams also went undefeated: 1975 - 10-0; 1976 - 9-0-1; and 1977 - 9-0. His final squad in 1978 posted a 7-2 mark.

And what was the reason for his success?

"My philosophy as a coach was that I wanted every individual in school to participate in football, but I knew that would never happen," he stated. "But the ones that I could recruit to play football, I promised them that if they gave me 110 percent, I would give them 150 percent. If they gave me their best, I gave them my best...and with a lot of hard work and determination, we will all succeed together."

After just six seasons and a 56-3-1 record, Granville "Bear" Freeman (nicknamed in honor of the other "Bear" at the University of Alabama) decided to step down and pursue a career in the insurance business, which continues today after more than 30 years.

He's had numerous opportunities to return to the gridiron but the five-time Cherokee Conference Coach of the Year turned them all down to spend more time with his family and continue his passion as a horse trainer and rider.

He won his 12th World Championship Amateur Rider of the Year award in 2011 and has captured 18 World Championship titles.

In addition to degrees previously mentioned, Freeman holds a master's degree in education from Southeastern Louisiana University and a master's degree in special education from Jackson State University.

He and Diane have two sons, Bill and David. Bill, an ECCC alumnus who is also in the insurance business, is married to the former Paula Gray and they have two children, Madelyn and Will. Bill also serves as Scott County Justice Court Judge, Post 2. David is single and is employed as a regional sales manager for national poultry equipment supplier.



Tommy McCullough

"Athletic Hall of Fame"

Tommy McCullough was well-prepared for the challenges of junior college football in the mid 1950's, although the opposing players – and sometimes his own teammates – were probably not prepared to handle him!

The Philadelphia resident was among the many student-athletes who in those days completed military service prior to enrolling in college. But McCullough was probably the only veteran who entered military service following the sophomore year in high school. And he was no doubt among the few who did so while also being married. And on top of that, he qualified to play three years on the Warrior football team.

McCullough had tough decisions to make as a teenager, especially after experiencing success as a member of Philadelphia High School football team.

A standout center/linebacker, McCullough was named to the All Choctaw Conference team as a freshman and was an All-State selection his sophomore season.

Instead of preparing for his junior season, McCullough married his sweetheart, the former Faye Hudspeth of Louisville, before completing his sophomore year. She was 17; he was 15. Their parents consented to the marriage but McCullough knew it was up to him to provide a living for himself and his family.

He decided to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953 and served two years of active duty and was a member of the football team. He continued his athletic career at then East Central Junior College, and was heralded as one the best centers/linebackers to wear the Black and Gold.



Tommy McCullough
Class of 1958

McCullough completed his athletic career as a participant in the 1958 JUCO All-American Game held at Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

In recognition of his standout career on the gridiron, McCullough was recently selected by the ECCC Alumni Association for induction into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame. The special ceremony will be held during the Alumni Association Luncheon during Homecoming activities scheduled Saturday, September 29

in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria on the Decatur campus.

Regarding the prestigious honor, McCullough first reply was, "Wow! So many people are more than deserving...but I am truly grateful."

McCullough chuckled when he thought about his marriage as a young teenager and the reaction of those in the Philadelphia community.

"Everybody said it would not last," he commented. "But we had our 61st wedding anniversary last year!"

McCullough said he was "very proud" to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was stationed at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. He added being a member of the "football team" was "quite an experience."

"It was different...playing Marine football," he said. "A lot of former college players were on the team but I was the only one who had never been to college. They taught me a lot, as you might expect!"

McCullough said competition was "very fierce" among squad members, "because if you got cut, you would be sent to fight in the Korean War...so nobody wanted to get cut!"

McCullough said a frequent visitor at practices and games was the camp commander and highly decorated General Chesty Puller. "He liked the blood and guts...and made sure we were in good shape," McCullough said. "And we were all in great shape...I was a size 28 in the waist and weighed about 225 pounds."

After completing his Marine duties, Mc-

In the top photo, McCullough is shown during his playing days on the Decatur campus.

See MCCULLOUGH, Next Page

Attention Former Warriors

A Special Reunion for members of the
1981 and 1982 ECCC Football Teams
during Homecoming activities September 29, 2012.

For more information contact the Office of Foundation and Alumni
Relations at 601-635-6327 or Dr. Randall E. Lee at 601-635-6375.
The e-mail addresses are sholling@eccc.edu or rlee@eccc.edu

FREEMAN (continued from previous page)

Cullough returned home and worked about a month as a welder for a local industry but he soon decided he needed to return to school.

He enrolled in 1955 at Newton County Agricultural School, which was then a part of East Central Junior College. He was able to earn his GED diploma that year while a member of the Warrior football team. He was recruited by head football coach Billy Ray Lindsley but before the season started, Lindsley stepped down and Clayton Blount became head coach.

McCullough said of Coach Blount, "He was a good man...a good leader...a good communicator...but we sometimes had our differences because we were both 'bulls' and a little hot-headed!"

McCullough recalled several instances to illustrate his point.

Once day during practice, McCullough said Coach Blount "blew his top" because McCullough and quarterback Charlie "Red" Hope kept fumbling the snap.

"We fumbled six straight times and Coach Blount said if we fumbled one more time he will send me to the house," McCullough recalled. "Well, on the next play, we fumbled... and Coach Blount sent me to the house, which thank goodness for me was the nearby campus apartments."

But since he was off the team and without a scholarship at that point, McCullough said he had to come up with the \$21 rent that was due the next day. "Heck, I did not have 21 cents... much less \$21," McCullough said with a laugh. "However Coach Blount let me come back to the team and I did not have to worry about paying rent anymore."

McCullough and the Warriors experienced a successful 1955 season, which included victories over Northeast (26-2), Northwest (19-13), Holmes (18-0), Hinds (13-7), East MS (39-0) and Itawamba (14-0). Losses were to Co-Lin (26-20), Delta (19-6), Pearl River (6-0) and Jones (34-12).

Of the six victories, McCullough said the Hinds and East MS games stand out most.

Hinds was led by fullback Jim Taylor, who was later an All-American at Louisiana State University and was an All-Pro selection for the

Green Bay Packers.

"We were told that Taylor was kept locked in a cage before kickoff," McCullough recalled. "And that really fired us up!"

McCullough also remembered how frustrated the legendary "Scooba" coach "Bull" Sullivan got when the Warriors kept piling up the points.

"On one scoring drive, we ran the same play eight straight times and got 10 yards each time," laughed McCullough. "But not only was Coach Sullivan mad, so was Coach Blount... because I changed the play Coach Blount called each time. But it worked...and we won the game!"

Although he reluctantly admitted it, McCullough said another "highlight" of his freshman year was that he was thrown out of the first three games - each time before halftime - by game officials. And what did he do to deserve such action?

"I did not do anything...but my forearm did!" McCullough stated. "We did not take much junk off anybody in those days!"

McCullough was known for his powerful forearms on offense and defense...in practice and in games.

"One day in practice part of a teammate's tooth got lodged in my forearm, where it remained until the end of the season. Dr. (Austin) Boggan (team doctor) was very surprised when he operated on my swollen arm and pulled out the tooth...he thought I was kidding when I told him the tooth was in my arm!"

McCullough soon got his forearms "under control" thanks to his mother, who promised him \$5 if he did not get thrown out of a game. "And I never did get thrown out again...that was a lot of money to me!"

The sophomore season was highlighted by a second-straight win over arch rival East MS (13-7) and victories over Northwest (20-6), Itawamba (20-14) and Northeast (forfeit). Losses were to Northeast (25-7), Co-Lin (27-12), Holmes (14-0), Delta (26-19), Hinds (14-12), Pearl River (20-6) and Jones (46-15).

Since he was classified as a high school senior his first year as a Warrior in 1955, McCullough qualified to play a third season in 1957.

The 1957 Warriors managed wins over Holmes (12-7) and Jones County and posted ties with East MS (7-7) and Co-Lin (20-20). Setbacks were to Delta (6-0), Hinds (45-0), Southwest (14-7), East MS (20-6), Itawamba (39-13) and Pearl River (53-0).

It was the Pearl River "setback" that provided another "standout moment" for McCullough.

McCullough, who admitted he was not the fastest player on the field, tried to catch a speedy Wildcat running back only to be blocked from the blind side, which sent his helmet into the home stands.

"The Pearl River fans would not give my helmet back," McCullough said, "until Coach (Dobie) Holden retrieved it for me. Marcus Gordon (Circuit Court Judge from Union) played end and still kids me today about the helmet incident and why I tried to catch someone so much faster, especially when we were getting beat so badly!"

McCullough concluded his athletic career with his participation in the East-West JUCO All-American Game in Jackson. He said he was ready to "hang up the cleats" and have time for his body to heal. He noted he often played with broken wrists in practice and in games.

Following graduation he began a 20-plus year career with Merchants Truck Line.

For the past 25 years, he has been a self-employed businessman in Philadelphia, where he operates a fireworks business and flea market.

McCullough, now 76, said he enjoys life every day, especially after he was basically sent home "to die" about 15 years ago, when he was diagnosed with a fatal liver ailment. He recalled losing 74 pounds in six weeks, but since that time his health has been restored through medicines "and a lot of prayer." He also wanted to mention that he got "saved" at age 40...and commented, "If God can save me, He can save anyone!"

McCullough and his wife had a daughter, Debbie, who is deceased. Debbie served as the young mascot when McCullough was a member of the Warrior football team. The McCulloughs also has a granddaughter and three great grandchildren.

Special Groups to Be Recognized During Homecoming Festivities

Among special groups to be honored during East Central Community College Homecoming activities scheduled September 29 are members of the 1992 musical cast of "The 1940s Radio Hour," which was directed by the late Judy Carroll, and members of the 1981 and 1982 Warrior football teams, lead by Coach Ken Pouncey.

Musical cast and crew members included David Ezell, Richard Luke, Gene Priscock, Kirk Weems, Rachel McCool Fulce, Nick Pouncey, Roshelle Sparkman, Maria Leach McLeod, Lori Rogers Wilcher, David Campbell, Penny Rogers, J. C. Howell, Christopher Dickerson, Mark Branning, Dewayne Pickens, Sid McNeil, Rodney Bost, Tommy Denson, Leesa Wilkerson, Charles Hinson, Tom Carson, Laura Jinkerson, Kim Thornton, Angel Truhett, Christina Edwards, Susan McCann, Jennifer Pace, Darlene Pate, Doug Morris and Stephen Ford.

Members of the 1981 team included Raymond Alley, Harvey Ashford, Sammy Breland, Terry Burns, Early Clemons, Grover Coleman, Vernon Cruver, Anthony Cunningham, Dave Doby, Joe Douglas, Tommy Dunaway, Paul Eichelberger, Marcus Evans, Randy Ficklin, Terry Gallaspy, Willie Glass, Eddie Goss, Greg Gray, Terry Hawkins, Micah Hazelwood, Randy Hornesburger, Jessie Hudson, Andy Johns, Billy Johnson, Danny Johnson, Dwight Jones, Kevin Jordan, Jim Kenamer, Randall Lee, Frederick Lyons, Bruce McGee, Steve McNeil, Mike Miles, James Mitchell, Benny Earl Moore, Ronnie Parker, Bob Posey, Scott Quisenberry, Dale Reese, David Reynolds, Kenny Richmond, Keith Robinson, Dewayne Rogers, Randy Russell, Joey Sharp, Johnny Shields, Arthur Townsend, Charlie Walker, Todd Wall, Daniel Winstead, Greg Winstead, Bob Yarbrough, Howard Allgood (Manager), Donald Ficklin (Manager), Willie Hanna (Manager), David Bradberry (Coach), Freeman Horton (Coach) and Ken Pouncey (Head Coach).

Members of the 1982 team included Raymond Alley, Tony Baker, Mike Ballew, Randy Banning, Wayne Baucum, Jeff Breland, Sammy Breland, Jay Brown, Kyle Callaghan, Lamar Cheatham, Early Clemons, Anthony Cunningham, Eddie Dean, Davey Doby, Joe Douglas, Marcus Evans, Jerry Gallaspy, Steve Gates, Willie Gates, Eddie Goss, Scott Griffin, Calvin Harper, Steve Hatch, Mike Hawthorne, Micah Hazelwood, Jessie Hudson, Andy Johns, Jay Jones, Jim Kenamer, Joe Allen Killens, William Leach, Dean LeBlanc, Randall Lee, Bernard Lee, Fredrick Lyons, Mike Mason, Bruce McGee, Scott Miley, Ronnie Parker, Chris Perry, Bob Posey, Scott Quisenberry, Paul Reed, Dale Reese, David Reynolds, Ned Rushing, Joey Sharp, Phil Smith, Paul Tatum, Charlie Triplett, Todd Wall, Ken Wallace, Bob Yarbrough, Derek Clark, (Manager), Doug Hubbard (Manager), David Bradberry (Coach), Freeman Horton (Coach) and Ken Pouncey (Head Coach).

For more information, contact Hollingsworth at 601-635-6327 or toll free 1-877-462-3222, ext. 327. The e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu.



Cast of "The 1940s Radio Hour"



1981 Warrior Football Team



1982 Warrior Football Team

Previous ECCC Alumni Honorees

Alumni of the Year

1964	B.O. Smith, Louisville
1965	Lucille Wood, Decatur
1966	Henry D. Horton, Louisville
1967	Crowley Alford, Carthage
1968	W.H. Johnson, Jr., Decatur
1969	Arthur Winstead, Philadelphia
1970	Leon Sims, Philadelphia
1971	Charles Carter, Jackson
1972	Dr. William L. Weems, Jackson
1973	Arno Vincent, Meridian
1974	Elizabeth K. Darby, Philadelphia
1975	W.C. Spence, Walnut Grove
1976	John Risher, Philadelphia
1977	Jessie M. Everett, Decatur
1978	Class of 1928, First Class
1979	Glen D. Walker, Union
1980	Russell Walton, Union
1981	Dwight Mulholland, Collinsville
1982	Denver Brackeen, Union
1983	Frank Hunter, Brookhaven
1984	Herman Alford, Philadelphia
1985	Carl B. Cooper, Decatur
	Dr. Beverly Oliphant, Washington, D.C.
1986	Kenneth Madison, Philadelphia
	Dr. Pam Kirk, Louisville
1987	Dr. Brad Tucker, Decatur
	Dr. Addie R. Lee, Birmingham, AL
1988	Henry B. Hudspeth, Louisville
	Dr. Vernie Prevost, Hixon, TN
1989	Dr. Eddie M. Smith, Decatur
	Dr. Walterine Herrington Bell, Jackson
1990	Larry Hogue, Flowood
	Jo McMullan Taylor, Forest
1991	Dr. Clyde Muse, Raymond
	Lois Blount Cooper, Decatur
1992	Earl Marshall, Clinton
	June Bailey, Biloxi
1993	Melvin Tingle, Decatur
	Patsy Dunigan Clark, Louisville
1994	Paul V. Breazeale, Jackson
	Rev. Jane Todd Gurry, Raleigh, NC
1995	Dr. John Gipson, Newton
	Wanda Comans Sharp, Sebastopol
1996	Ray Britt, Walnut Grove
	Brenda Whatley Kirby, Forest
1997	Dick Livingston, Pulaski
	Carol Farish Vickers, Decatur
1998	T.H. "Tam" Etheridge, Jackson
	Nell Allen Rogers, Philadelphia
1999	Dr. Shelby L. Harris, Decatur
	Illene Richie Gordon, Union
2000	LeBrun Hutchison, Littleton, CO
	Jeanette Beavers Thrash, Decatur
2001	Dr. Joe Todd, Cincinnati, OH
	Betty Lewis Gomillion, Walnut Grove
2002	Harvey Trapp, Newton
	Imogene Johnson Borganelli, Greenville

2003	Dr. Milton Matthews, Pearl
	Frances Harris Smith, Decatur
2004	Dr. John G. Hollingsworth, Commerce, GA
	Ann Hunter Burkes, Decatur
2005	Bill Lovett, Forest
	Maxie Dodson Phillips, University Park, MD
2006	Judge Marcus D. Gordon, Union
	Dr. Sandra Rivers Weeks, Commerce, TX
2007	Houston W. Patrick, Martin, TN
	Ollie Faye Wood Woodward Flint, Philadelphia
2008	Richard E. "Dick" Mayo, Decatur
	Marijo James Denson, Decatur
2009	Jack Winstead, Lawrence
	Mary Rosalyn Rogers Folks, Picayune
2010	William L. "Bill" Bailey, Decatur
	Brig. Gen. Amelia Kennedy, Louisville
2011	Dr. Frank Bowen, Carthage
	Dr. Nicole Flint Harrison, Union

Lifetime Achievement Awards

1991	Dr. Austin P. Boggan, Decatur
1994	Homer Hunter, Decatur
	Ovid Vickers, Decatur
1996	W.H. Johnson, Decatur
	J.W. Thrash, Decatur
	James E. Land, Union

Athletic Hall of Fame

1985	Denver Brackeen, Union
1986	Lucille Wood, Louisville
1987	Billy Wayne Baucum, Decatur
1988	Howard J. Sessums, Harpersville
1989	Lamar Blount, Decatur
	Earl Marshall, Clinton
	Arno Vincent, Meridian
1990	Richard Harris, Hickory
	Jeff Loper, Decatur
	Sherrell Ray Marshall, Jackson
1991	Diana Lyons Jones, Bay Springs
	Larry Henderson, Daphne, AL
	Wayne Tullos, Belle Glade, FL
1992	Joe Clark, Decatur
	Evelyn Bender, Newton
	Dr. Bert Thompson, Clinton
1993	Louis V. Watwood, Arlington, VA
	Barbara Jo Davidson Russell, Decatur
	Esther Thomas Coleman, Louisville
1994	Charlie Hope, Sharpsburg, GA
	Charlene Jones Bates, Forest
	Malcolm "Puddin" Jones, Decatur
1995	Clayton Blount, Decatur
	Nan Huston Keenan, Rose Hill
	James T. "Jim" Wood, Louisville

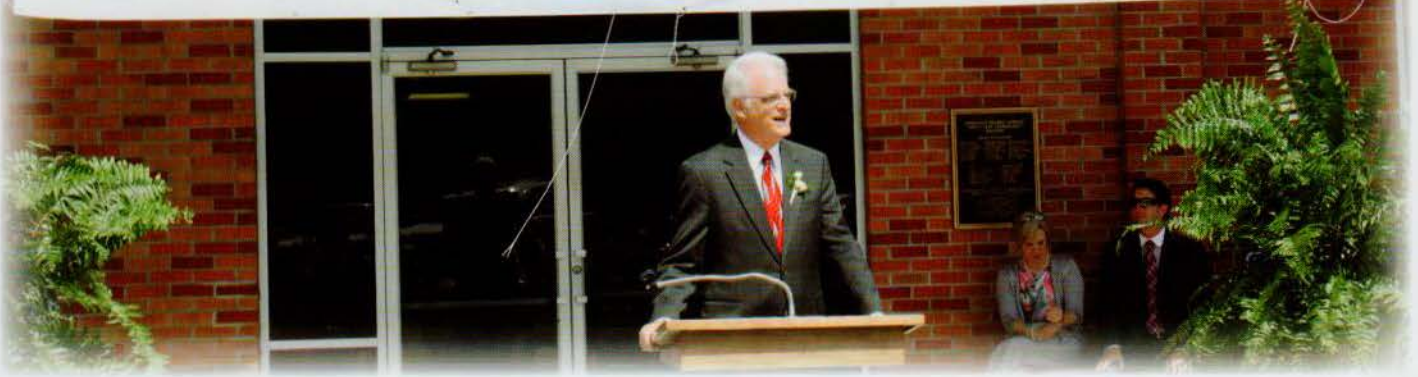
1996	M.E. "Boe" Davis, Cary, NC
	Malcolm Phillips, Newton
	Julie Latham, Morton
	John W. Golden, Stone Mountain, GA
1997	Tommy Williamson Alfonso, Gulfport
	Lester Baucum, Wiggins
	James L. "Creeper" Nelson, Newton
1998	Van Chancellor, Houston, TX
	Deborah Norwood Duncan, Philadelphia
	Howard Sessums, Clinton
1999	Charles E. Ward, Pace, FL
	Daisy Kate Williams Chaney, Union
	Sam Rutigliano, Forest, VA
2000	Billy Ray Dill, Escatawpa
	Sue Gunter, Baton Rouge, LA
	Jimmy Rea, Madison
2001	Charles Payne, Florence
	Sammy Pace, Decatur
	Willie "Tenny" Coats, Decatur
2002	Freddie J. Bagley, Forest
	James E. "Jim" Nabers, Louisville
	Robert L. Thomas, Philadelphia
2003	Roy Baker, Clinton
	Imogene Johnson Borganelli, Greenville
	Rex Keeton, Morton
	Mark Killens, Newton
2004	Marcus Mann, Forest
	Ken Pouncey, Decatur
2005	Bob Tom Johnson, Forest
	Lucy Young, Vicksburg
2006	Melvin Carpenter, Ocala, FL
	Wilmer James, Brandon
2007	Joy Eichelberger Hannah
	Clyde Muse, Raymond
	Gaines Massey,
2008	A.J. Kilpatrick, Grenada
	Jamie Clark, Decatur
2009	Wanda Blackwell McPhail, Meridian
	Donald Acton, Knoxville, TN
2010	Chris Harris, Decatur
	Dr. Howard Carlton McMillin, Carthage
2011:	Kenneth Dunagin, Decatur
	James "Jimmy" Fisackerly, New Orleans, LA

Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

Those wishing to make nominations for East Central Community College Alumna/Alumnus of the Year or Athletic Hall of Fame should contact Stacey Hollingsworth in the Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327. The e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu. Nominations are accepted through June 1 each year.

Phil A. Sutphin

Associate Degree Nursing/ Child Development Technology Building



Retired ECCC President Dr. Phil Sutphin Honored

Retired East Central Community College President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin is shown expressing appreciation to a crowd of well-wishers who attended a reception and building dedication in his honor held Sunday, May 6 on the Decatur campus. The special program was held at the Association Degree Nursing/Child Development Technology Building, which was officially named in his honor at the ceremony as declared by ECCC Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth (shown in background) of Lake. The ECCC Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the re-naming of the facility at the April 2012 meeting, "in recognition of Dr. Sutphin's years of loyal service to the College and his leadership in helping secure the nursing/childcare programs on the Decatur campus." Dr. Sutphin was also presented a travel gift certificate by retired Vice President for Instruction Dr. Lavinia Sparkman (shown in background) on behalf of the ECCC family. In addition, he was presented legislative resolutions from State Senator Giles Ward of Louisville and State Representatives Randy Rushing of Decatur, Scott Bounds of Philadelphia and Tom Miles of Forest. When he retired on June 30, 2012, Dr. Sutphin completed 12 years service as ECCC's seventh president. He joined the ECCC staff in 1988 as Dean of Students and later served as Dean of Instruction. In all, Dr. Sutphin provided 42 years of service in the field of education.

Former Diamond Warriors Invited to Participate in Alumni Game

Former members of the East Central Community College Diamond Warrior Baseball Team are invited to participate in a special alumni game scheduled Saturday, September 29, during Homecoming festivities.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building, according to head coach Neal Holliman.

"We will check-in and organize teams and then start the game at 10:45 a.m.," Holliman said. "We plan to conclude around 12:30 p.m.

and showers will be available for those who wish to clean up and stay for the remaining homecoming festivities."

Participants are invited to stay for Warrior Club tailgating activities scheduled at 1 p.m. at Bailey Stadium and the football game against Hinds Community College, which begins at 2:30 p.m.

For more information contact Coach Holliman at 601-635-6374. The e-mail address is nholliman@eccc.edu.



East Central Awarded Reaffirmation of Accreditation

East Central Community College in recently received notification of reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges, announced new ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

Dr. Stewart said ECCC was included among colleges awarded reaffirmation of accreditation at the June 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the SACS Commission on Colleges.

"We are very pleased East Central Community College has again received reaffirmation of accreditation for a 10-year period," said Dr. Stewart, who began serving as the College's eighth president on July 1, 2012. "This recognition validates what we know: the institution continues to provide a high-quality, post-secondary educational experience for students throughout our five-county service area. However, this reaffirmation is also a challenge to continue to improve the quality of the college's programs and services."

"The reaffirmation process has resulted in many positive outcomes for our college," added Dr. Stewart, "including the implementation of the Freshman Year Experience program, The Warrior Path to Success, identified by the College as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)."

Each institution applying for reaffirmation of accreditation through SACS is required to develop a QEP that addresses one or more issues that contribute to the improvement of student learning.

Dr. Teresa Houston, the college's new Vice President for Instruction, explained, "The College has developed a QEP to assist students in their transition to college life. Beginning with those who enroll in the fall of 2012, all first-time, full-time, at-risk developmental students will be enrolled in The Warrior Path to Success which is designed to provide students with tools and techniques, not just for academic success, but success in all facets of their lives. This experience will engage students in activities that will promote their social and economic mobility."

Dr. Stewart added, "This achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated and talented people who teach, work and serve students at ECCC and who worked diligently to earn this reaffirmation of accreditation."

East Central received notification of the accreditation status in a letter from Dr. Belle S. Wheelen, President, SACS Commission on Colleges.

In her statement on the SACS Commis-

sion on Colleges Web site, Dr. Wheelen noted when an institution has earned accreditation by the Commission on Colleges, it signifies that it "has a purpose appropriate to higher education and has the resources, programs and services sufficient to accomplish and sustain that purpose."

Dr. Wheelen further stated achieving and sustaining accreditation status "also ensures that institutions provide quality programs for students, which determines eligibility for Title IV funds (financial aid)."

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. The Commission's mission "is the enhancement of educational quality throughout the region and it strives to improve the effectiveness of institutions by ensuring that institutions meet standards established by the higher education community that address the needs of society and students."

For more information, contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Class of 1962-Golden Anniversary Reunion!

**A Special Reunion for members of the ECCC Class of 1962
will be held during Homecoming activities September 29, 2012.**

**For more information contact the Office of Foundation and Alumni
Relations at 601-635-6327. The e-mail address is sholling@eccc.ed.**

Dunkerson Scholarship Established



Kyle Dunkerson

Family and friends of Kyle Dunkerson have established a scholarship in his memory at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Dunkerson was a student at ECCC when he lost his life in a automobile accident on Oct. 6, 2011.

He was a member of the 2010 Warrior soccer team. He enjoyed riding horses, fishing, hunting, playing "catch" with his brother, Zac, and playing golf. He also enjoyed hanging out with friends and family, and riding around in his jeep. He was an active member of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church.

Dunkerson was described as someone "whose smile and personality were larger than life; his smile could brighten anyone's day. Kyle lived his life to the fullest and enjoyed every minute."

He was a graduate of Newton County High School, where he was a member of soccer and football teams.

He was the son of Angela and Jody Kyzar of Decatur, and Carrie Dunkerson of Alabama.

To be considered for the Kyle Dunkerson Memorial Scholarship, candidates must be an incoming freshman; have a 2.0 to 2.9 grade point average; enrolled as a full-time time student at ECCC; be a resident of Newton County; and have a strong interest in the outdoors and riding horses. First priority for the scholarship will be given to a graduate of Newton County High School.

The ECCC Scholarship Committee will select the scholarship recipient annually after applications have been reviewed by the Kyzar family.

For more information, contact ECCC Student Services, 601-635-6205 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 205.



ECCC Instructors of the Year

East Central Community College faculty members Denita Thomas (left) of Noxapater and Thomas Fortenberry of Union received "Instructor of the Year" honors for 2011-12 at the College's end-of-the-year luncheon held May 9 in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Thomas, an Associate Degree Nursing instructor, was named Academic Instructor of the Year. She joined the ECCC faculty in 2008. Thomas began her duties as Dean of Healthcare Education on July 1. Fortenberry, who teaches Computer Networking Technology, was chosen Workforce Education Instructor of the Year. He began his employment with the career-technical division in 1998. Fortenberry previously served the College for seven years in the Data Management Department (currently known as Information Technology Department).



ECCC Retirees Honored

These East Central Community College retirees received special recognition at the College's annual end-of-the-year luncheon held May 9, 2012, in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. They are shown displaying framed resolutions commemorating their years of service to ECCC and the field of education. They were also presented various gifts. From left are Thomas W. Carson, director of bands; Haywood Reeves, math instructor; Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, College president; and Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, vice president for instruction. Carson has served 30 years as director of bands and held the position of Fine Arts Division Chairman since 2009. Reeves has logged 44 years service in the field of education, the last 14 at ECCC. Dr. Sutphin is completing 12 years as ECCC President and 24 years on the College staff, having previously served as dean of students and dean of instruction. Dr. Sparkman began her tenure at ECCC in 2000 and has provided 27 years of service in education.

GED® Graduate Overcomes Obstacles to Realize 'Dream'



Vashika Goss



Latisha Johnson

Vashika Goss of Philadelphia said she always "dreamed" of the moment when she received her GED diploma.

That dream finally came true for the 37-year-old grandmother who was among the approximately 50 students who received diplomas from East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart at the GED® Graduation held July 19, 2012, in Huff Auditorium.

Goss, a certified nursing assistant for Support Living, Inc., was one of two graduates who provided testimonials during the semi-annual ceremony.

During her remarks, Goss said "it took 19 years to get here," mainly due to various setbacks in her life.

"Nobody knows what it cost me to get where I am today...the stumbling blocks, hardships, disappointments, all the struggles and all the losses," she said while holding back tears. "Everything that could happen to stop me happened, but I did not allow life to dictate my success or my future."

"With every hardship, disappointment and stumbling block," she continued, "God always saw me out of it because I was determined to achieve my diploma, no matter what the cost. I always dreamed of this moment, and now God has allowed my dream to come

true."

One of the "obstacles" Goss faced was while a student at Neshoba Central High School.

"I got married in July 1992 when I was 17, just before my senior year," she said. "The following March I found out I was pregnant. As any mother would be, I was happy, but I had no idea what was about to happen. I didn't count the costs before I decided to make such a major decision. I was working fulltime, going to school fulltime and I was pregnant. I got to where I had to give up something - it couldn't be the job because I was married on my own with a mortgage, bills and a car note. I ended up dropping out of school six months before graduation."

By dropping out of school, Goss said she missed out on several college scholarship opportunities due to her 3.5 grade average. But as she stated, "I had everything going for me, and I chose to give it all up."

So for the past 19 years, Goss said she "struggled" just to survive.

"But because God was there," Goss reiterated, "I did make it. There were times I did not know how I would pay the rent or buy food...it was always one dead-end job right behind the other. I was always walking off jobs or hearing the boss say, 'I've got to let you go.' Then there were times I had to work two jobs at a time just to make ends meet. I thought I knew everything, and I knew nothing."

To add to her situation, Goss said she was diagnosed with a lung ailment in 2007, but after "treatments and prayer" her lungs were declared "perfect" following an examination in January 2011.

Goss, who took GED classes at Philadelphia and Decatur locations, said she would not have succeeded without the encouragement of others.

"I thank God for my instructors and their hard work and dedication, and for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. I thank God for my biggest cheerleader of all, my mother (Margaret Ann Cullum). We didn't always see eye-to-eye, but she believed in me and provided encouragement," she said.

Goss also thanked her former pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Clark, who "pushed me to obtain my GED after many years of giving up. He told me of his testimony in receiving the GED...and then he encouraged me to go forward."

She gave credit to Barbara Booker, one of her instructors, for encouraging her to take the GED test.

"If she had never pushed me to take the test, only God knows how long I would have waited," she commented.

Goss also thanked instructors, Mrs. Vir-

ginia Kite "for the laughs and talks we shared during class and the constant reminders that I had what it took to succeed," and Gloria and Larry Harms, "for their help with algebra and geometry...they were so patient with me, and for that I am thankful!"

Now that she has received her GED, Goss said she challenges others who may need to obtain their high school equivalency diploma.

"I didn't just come here to receive something," she said, "but I also came here to give something. Today I came to encourage, provoke and push others to move forward... and to move forward unafraid, and trust God to see you through to the end."

She is married to Tony Goss and they have three daughters, Kiana, LaKendra and Gabrielle. She also has an infant granddaughter, Airl Marie Hunter.

They attend Tabernacle of Praise Church of God in Christ.

Latisha Johnson of Decatur also provided a testimonial during the GED Graduation program.

Johnson, 26, a Rankin County native, attended three different high schools before dropping out of school in the tenth grade. However, she never lost the desire to further her education, as she stated during her remarks:

"I am honored and humbled to express how gratifying it is to reach this goal in my life. I have had a few bumps and bruises along the way, but I refuse to let those memories block my progress in life. I have set higher goals for myself to become a better person and a better mother to my three children."

Johnson expressed appreciation to God, her family and friends, and GED instructors, Bryan and Mary Burt, and Ed McGowan, for "this victory and many more to come." She added, "Without the love from my family, the support from my friends, and the encouragement from the GED instructors, I would not be standing before you tonight."

Johnson, who plans to continue her education at ECCC, said she once thought she had failed in life, "but then I realized that there are many who failed and have risen victorious."

She referred to Albert Einstein, who did not speak until he was four years old, and Michael Jordan, who was cut from his high school basketball team.

"Without failure, there can be no victory," she said in conclusion.

The Rev. Sheldon Thomas served as guest speaker for the GED graduation. Also participating in the program were Dr. Teresa Houston, new ECCC Vice President for Instruction; GED instructor Ed McGowan, benediction; and GED graduate Kent Addy of Decatur, invocation. ECCC music instructor Len Bobo provided special music.



ECCC Wins Honors at National PBL Conference

Students representing East Central Community College in Decatur received honors at the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference held earlier this summer in San Antonio, Texas. Kayla Dickerson (second from left) of Union placed 12th in Sales Presentation and Tori McInnis (far right), also of Union, finished 12th in Strategic Analysis and Decision Making. Also representing ECCC were chapter adviser Thomas Fortenberry (left) and his son, participant Tanner Fortenberry (center), and adviser Stella Dickerson, all of Union. Tanner Fortenberry qualified for national competition after winning first-place honors in Business Presentation at the state contest. Not pictured is Rachel Alexander of Philadelphia, who placed 10th in Local Chapter Annual Business Report. Students who place first or second in their respective categories on the state level advance to the national contest. Thomas Fortenberry was also recognized as PBL Adviser of the Year in Mississippi. Phi Beta Lambda is an organization for business students. (Submitted photo)

EC Athletes Recognized for Academic Excellence

Six athletic teams at East Central Community College were recognized for academic excellence by the National Junior College Athletic Association and 11 student-athletes qualified as NJCAA Academic All-Americans for 2011-12.

At the top of the list is the Lady Warrior soccer squad, which received academic team of the year honors by posting a 3.48 grade point average.

It's the third time in the program's brief history that the Kenneth Thompson-coached squad has received the prestigious honor.

Thompson expressed appreciation to team members for their accomplishment and sent a campus-wide email thanking faculty members for their dedication in helping student-athletes succeed in the classroom.

"A special thanks to all the instructors who work with my athletes in the classroom," Thompson wrote. "Thank you for working with these young ladies as they move to accomplish long-term goals for the future. Even though these girls are very focused on their responsibilities, you are just as big a part of this award for what you do in the academic classroom with your students. Kudos to you as this is a reflection on your hard work as well. I will continue to strive to push each of my athletes, both male and female, to reach for higher and higher goals, but I will need your help to keep pushing them in the classroom as well. Again, thank you for what you do for our students as we strive to make East Central soccer the best it can be."

The Lady Soccer Warriors also received NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors in 2005 and 2009. In the 2010, the squad finished second by 0.02 points. The squad has never finished lower than sixth in the nation since the program's inception in 2005.

Several soccer players were also recognized as NJCAA Academic All-Americans. Recognized for Superior Academic Achievement were

Nikki Cumberland and Wendy McCracken Burns, both products of Newton County High School. Miguel Medrano, a member of the Warrior soccer team, was recognized for Exemplary Academic Achievement. Medrano is a product of East Ascension High School in Gonzales, La.

The Warrior baseball team finished second in the national academic competition with a 3.37 grade point average. Team member Evan Humphries of Louisville was recognized for Exemplary Academic Achievement.

The Diamond Warriors are led by head coach Neal Holliman.

The Warrior tennis team placed third nationally with a 3.50 grade point average. Kyle Watson and Dianne O'Neill serve as co-head coaches.

Women's softball posted a 3.49 grade point average and placed seventh in the nation. Several players also received individual honors. Kelsi Watson of Smithville High School and Kaetlen Brown of Edgewood Academy (Ala.) were recognized for Superior Academic Achievement. Receiving Exemplary Academic Achievement recognition were Haelie Allen of Leake Academy, Haylee Roberts of Enterprise; Emily Lucy of Newton County High School; and Eden McGee of Neshoba Central. Scott Hill served as head coach.

The Lady Warrior tennis team finished 10th with a 3.40 grade point average. Kyle Watson and Dianne O'Neill serve as co-head coaches.

EC's golf team placed 25th nationally with a 3.03 grade point average. Chris Clark serves as head coach.

Former Warrior football player Tate Rogers of Louisville received Superior Academic Achievement honors. Brian Anderson serves as head coach.

New Staff Members Announced at ECCC

Several new faces have joined the East Central Community College campus in recent months. They include Kotreece Bender, women's basketball assistant coach; Sherrell Brown, administrative assistant to the Dean of eLearning; Samantha Buckley, eLearning coordinator; Hunter Corhern, director of bands; Sharon Griffin dormitory supervisor; Bridgett Hines Hitt, financial aid administrative assistant; Dr. Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction; Barry C. Karrh, culinary arts instructor; Violet Lambert, practical nursing instructor; Alicia Lundstrom, associate degree nursing instructor; Pam McKnight, part-time cheerleader coach; Courtney Nunn, softball assistant coach; Melanie Pinter, associate degree nursing instructor; Crandal Porter, women's basketball head coach; Laura Ryals, assistant dean of admissions; Donovan Tate, football assistant coach; Denita Thomas, dean of health-care education; Devarus "Scooter" Walker, men's basketball assistant coach; April Watson, 'Warrior Path to Success' instructor; Christy Wilson, practical nursing instructor; Jenna H. Wright, mathematics instructor;

Bender was previously employed by the Newton Municipal School District from 2007-12 and served as girls' assistant basketball coach for Coach Porter.

Bender received an associate's degree from ECCC in 2004 and recently earned a bachelor's degree in Inter Disciplinary Studies at Jackson State University.

Brown previously served as an Admissions Counselor/Recruiter for Antonelli College's Online Department in Jackson.

She is a 2004 honor graduate of Forest High School and received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from

ECCC in May 2006. Brown continued her education at Mississippi State University in Starkville and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication in May 2008.

Buckley previously served as administrative assistant to the Dean of eLearning, a position she held since 2007.

Buckley received an associate's degree from ECCC in 2002 and earned a bachelor's degree

in business administration from Mississippi State University in 2004.

Corhern served as Starkville Academy's Band Director from 2008-10 and served as graduate teaching assistant at Missouri State University from 2010-12.

A graduate of Starkville Academy, Corhern continued his education at MSU, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with Instrumental Emphasis in 2007 and completed a Master of Music degree in Wind Band Conducting in May 2012 at Missouri State University.

Griffin previously served as a part-time security officer for East Central and was earlier employed as a security officer at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan.

Hitt was previously employed at The Citizens Bank in Union, where she served in various positions, including loan secretary, new accounts customer service representative and teller.

Hitt is a 1998 honor graduate of Newton County High School. She received an associate's degree in liberal arts/business administration from ECCC in 2011.

Dr. Houston, previously served as Associate Dean of Instruction at East Mississippi Community College on the Mayhew campus.

A graduate of St. Joseph High School, Dr. Houston continued her education at MSU-Starkville, where

she received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1998; a Master of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education in 2000; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Community College Leadership in 2007.

Karrh previously served as an adjunct instructor/presenter for the National Food Science Management Institute at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, a position held since October 2011. He has served since 2010 as adjunct distance learning instructor at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Scottsdale, Arizona.

A native of Collinsville, Karrh earned a bachelor's degree in food science and nutrition from Mississippi University for Women in 2000 and received a master's degree in gastronomy from the University of Adelaide located in Adelaide, South Australia, in December 2011. He has also received training at the Le Cordon Bleu College in Paris, France, by winning both the James Beard and Simone Beck awards for culinary achievement.

Lambert previously served as a registered nurse at Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian, a position she has held since 2003.

A native of Quitman, Lambert earned an associate's degree in nursing from Meridian Community College in 1988 and received bachelor and master's degrees in nursing from William Carey University in Hattiesburg, both in 2005.

Lundstrom previously served as a member of the College's Practical Nursing faculty, a position held since 2009.

A 1999 graduate of Morton High School, Lundstrom received an associate's degree in nursing from ECCC in 2006 and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2008. She completed a master's degree in nursing from William Carey University in Hattiesburg.



Samantha Buckley



Hunter Corhern



Sharon Griffin



Bridgett Hitt



Dr. Teresa Houston



Barry Karrh



Violet Lambert



Alicia Lundstrom



Kotreece Bender



Sherrell Brown

See STAFF, Next Page

STAFF (continued from previous page)

burg in 2011.



Pam McKnight

McKnight currently works in design and sales for Varsity Fashion, Inc., where she has been employed for seven years. She also serves as head coach of the Forest High School varsity cheer squad.

She is a graduate of Edinburg High School and East Central Community College and attended Mississippi State University.



Courtney Nunn

Nunn previously assisted with recreational projects for the Jackson Parish Recreation Department in Jonesboro, La. and has served as a volunteer pitching coach for a softball clinic hosted by East Mississippi Community

College in Scooba.

A graduate of Jonesboro-Hodge High School, Nunn continued her career at East Mississippi, where received an Associates of Arts degree in May 2010. She earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Mississippi College in May 2012.



Melanie Pinter

Pinter previously served as the College's Dual Enrollment Practical Nursing instructor, a position held since 2008.

She is a 1994 honor graduate of Forest High School, received an associate's degree from ECCC in 1996, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi School of

Nursing in Jackson in 1998, and a master's degree in nursing from William Carey College in Hattiesburg in 2010.



Crandal Porter

Porter previously served as girls' and boys' head basketball coach at Newton High School since 2001. He led the girls' squad to state Class 2A titles in 2005 and 2010. His Tiger squad captured the state Class 2A championship in 2008.

Porter received a Bachelor of Science degree in Health, Physical

Education, Recreation and Dance from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998 and earned a Master of Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University in 2010.



Laura Ryals

Ryals previously served as an Admissions Assistant II at Mississippi State University in Starkville, a post she held from December 2008 to September 2011.

A 2004 graduate of Newton County High School, Ryals received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Drafting and Design Technology from ECCC

in May 2006. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Risk Management, Insurance and Financial Planning from MSU in December 2008.



Donovan Tate

Tate is a 2007 graduate of Hattiesburg High School. He received an associate's degree in liberal arts from East Central Community College in December 2008.

He continued his football career at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., and received a bachelor's degree in general

studies in December 2010. Tate is currently pursuing a master's degree in higher education administration at Nicholls State.



Denita Thomas

Thomas served the past four years as a member of the College's Associate Degree Nursing faculty, where her duties included teaching in the classroom, supervising students in the hospital setting, assisting students with learning in the skills lab, advising students, serving as coordinator for the LPN to RN

Bridge program, and coordinating and teaching students in the simulation lab.

Thomas received her associate degree in nursing from East Central in 1996. She holds the bachelor and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Devarus Walker

Walker's previous experience includes serving as an intern at the YMCA in Hattiesburg, where he operated summer sports camps for children age five to 13. He was also responsible for planning and organizing sports-related activities.

He is a 2007 graduate of Newton County High School, earned

an associate's degree at ECCC in 2009 and received a bachelor's degree in physical education at William Carey University in Hattiesburg in 2012.



April Watson

Watson previously served as an English instructor for Jones County Schools in Laurel and has served as an adjunct instructor at Mississippi State University-Meridian since 2012.

Watson is a 1998 graduate of Stringer Attendance Center. She received an Associate in Arts degree from Jones

County Junior College in Ellisville in 1999 and continued her education at MSU-Meridian, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in 2001. Watson earned a Master of Education degree from William Carey University in Hattiesburg in 2002.



Christy Wilson

Wilson was previously employed at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she taught associate degree nursing students in various areas including medical/surgical, pediatrics and psychiatric nursing. She also served as an adviser to nursing students and on the school's Committee

on Campus Culture.

A graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, Wilson earned an associate's degree in nursing from Meridian Community College in 1988 and received bachelor and master's degrees in nursing from Regis University in Denver, Colorado, in 2008 and 2010, respectively.



Jenna Wright

Wright, a native of Banks, Ala., previously served as a graduate assistant in the mathematics department at Mississippi State University-Starkville, where she taught college algebra and worked in several math labs as a tutor.

A graduate of Pike Liberal Arts High School in Troy, Ala.,

Wright received a bachelor's degree in mathematics education at Troy University in Troy, Ala., in 2009 and earned a master's degree in statistics from Mississippi State University-Starkville in August 2012.

Dear Alumni and Friends..

Dear alumni and friends:

We hope you are enjoying this latest issue of The Warrior alumni magazine. You might have noticed by now that we have made several changes to our format.

First, and foremost, you will notice that we have moved to a full color edition. We believe this will enhance and improve the overall look of our magazine.

Secondly, you will see a change in the alumni news section. After many requests by alumni and friends, we have organized news by decades and have included class years for each person listed. We also have shortened obituaries to just a name and death date due to space limitations.

If you would like to submit information for Alumni News, please include the year you graduated from ECCC or years you attended and mail it to Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, or e-mail sholling@eccc.edu or mmcleod@eccc.edu.

We are also implementing a special alumni feature section called Alumni Spotlight. If you would like to be included in this section or know someone who should be a featured alumna/alumnus, fill out the information below and send it to the above address, along with a color photograph.

Lastly, you have probably noticed that much of the information from our Foundation and Alumni Relations Office concerning donations, alumni association memberships and other related items was not included in this issue. In order to conserve space and to keep a more accurate yearly record, this information will be included in an additional July issue of the magazine, which will be a special President's Annual Report.

We hope that these changes will improve our magazine and that The Warrior will continue to provide you with the latest news about our College and our alumni.

Sincerely,

The Public Information Office

5K Run/Walk Begins Homecoming Activities

A 5K Run/Walk will once again begin East Central Community College's Homecoming celebration, which is scheduled Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012.

The annual competition starts at 7:30 a.m. on the College's North Campus, between the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex and Lady Warrior softball field.

Entry fee is \$20 per person. Each participant will receive a T-shirt and medallion.

Registration forms are available on the ECCC Web site, www.eccc.edu.

For more information, contact ECCC faculty member Dr. Phillip Crenshaw, race chairman, 601-635-6281 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 281. His e-mail address is pcrenshaw@eccc.edu.

ALUMNI: Send Us Your News!

Email news items, births, weddings and obituaries (including your class year) to:
sholling@eccc.edu,
bjohnston@eccc.edu
or mmcleod@eccc.edu

WANTED: ALUMNI NEWS

How would you like to be a featured alumnus/alumna in the next issue of The Warrior?

Please send the information at right, along with a color photograph to the Public Information Office, ECCC, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or e-mail mmcleod@eccc.edu or bjohnston@eccc.edu.

Alumni Spotlight:

Name

Years Attended ECCC:

Activities Involved at ECCC:

Most Memorable Moment at ECCC:

Senior College Attended/Graduated From:

Current Occupation:

Career Highlights:

Chaney To Succeed Hill as Fast-Pitch Coach

Scott Hill, who has served as fast-pitch softball head coach and director of intramurals since 2003, has stepped down to become a full-time faculty member at the College. Kristin Chaney, Hill's assistant the past four years and one of his former players, was selected as his successor.

Hill, 43, is one of the most successful coaches at East Central. His overall record is 308-123-1 and includes the program's first Region 23 Tournament title in 2010 and the first MACJC State Tournament championship in 2011.

The 2010 squad placed fourth in the NJCAA Division II National Women's Softball Championship en route to a record 47 victories with just 11 losses and one tie. The same squad was recognized as the NJCAA Academic Softball Team of the Year by posting a 3.69 grade point average. Hill was named Region 23 Softball Coach of the Year following the successful campaign.

Hill's 2011 team placed fifth in the national competition and finished 37-15. The talented squad also received NJCAA Softball Academic Team of the Year honors with another 3.69 grade point average. He received Region 23 Softball Coach of the Year honors in recognition of his team's success.

Prior to capturing region and state titles, Hill's teams reeled off three straight MACJC Central Division titles, when the league was divided into three areas of competition prior to the current setup of North and South divisions.

Hill has "mixed feelings" about stepping down, but said a desire to spend more time with his family was a main reason for the change.

"I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to coach softball here at East Central," Hill said. "It has been a wonderful experience not only for me but for my family as well. I am sad because there is so much that I will miss, but having the chance to spend a little more time with my family is something I know I will cherish. I look forward to assuming this new role as fulltime instructor which will continue to give me the chance to help young people at a place that is so dear to me."

Hill added, "I have had the great fortune to have had many fine young ladies to come through this program that definitely made it what it is today. I will always be so grateful for their many sacrifices on and off the field. It is very satisfying to see them start a career and a family...and know that we might have had some very small part in helping them along the way. I don't hesitate to recognize the huge impact they have had on my life."

Hill said he is "very pleased" that the Board of Trustees approved Chaney as his successor.

"It is reassuring to have someone the caliber of Kristin Chaney to step in and take over this program," Hill stated. "In



Kristin Chaney



Scott Hill

my nine years here as head softball coach, Coach Chaney has been with me for six of those years, two as a player and four as a coach. There is no way to measure just how important she has been to me and the Lady Warrior softball program. She is truly ready for this opportunity and I am so excited for her."

Chaney, 26, who is recognized as the College's only two-sport NJCAA All-American (softball/basketball), said following in Hill's footsteps makes the opportunity to serve as Lady Diamond Warrior coach "even more special."

"First and foremost, I want to thank Coach Hill for everything he has done for the softball program at East Central. He truly has bettered the program with the renovations to the field as well as bringing the first ever championship to the program. I would not be able to be in this position without him and will forever be grateful for everything he has done for this program as well as for me," Chaney said.

The new Lady Diamond Warrior head coach said she looks forward to continuing the program's success.

"I am excited to step in to this role as head coach," she said. "I love East Central from the bottom of my heart. I will forever bleed black and gold. This is a special time for me and I cannot begin to express my excitement. I only hope to build on the rich tradition here."

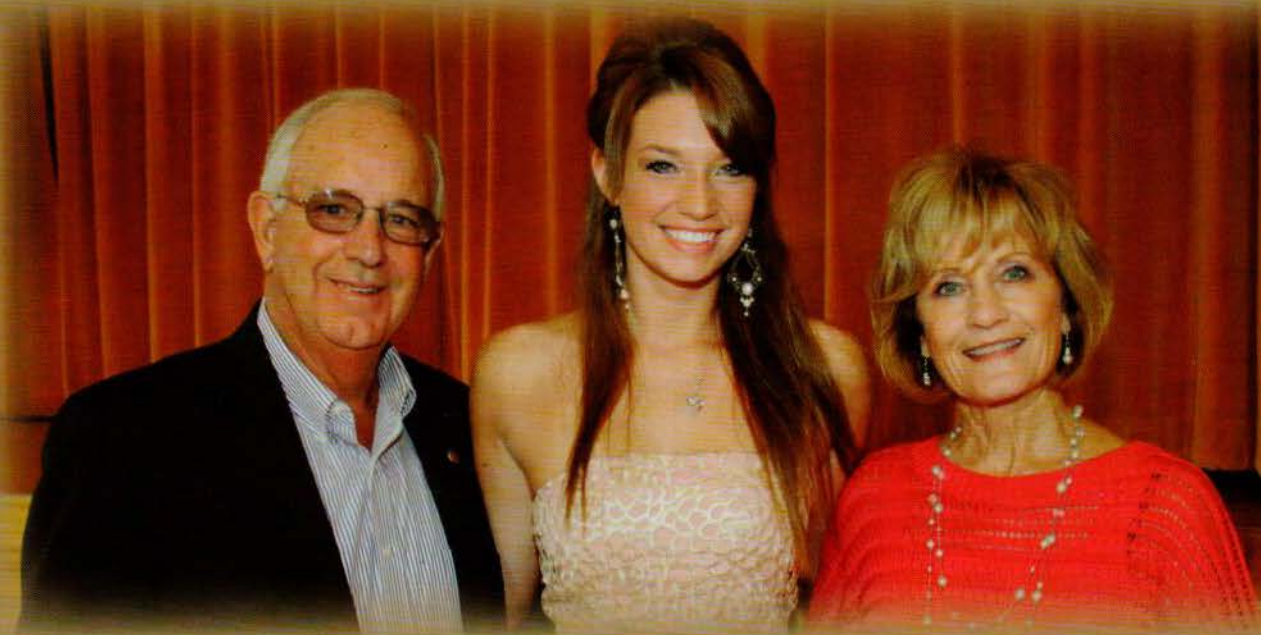
Prior to joining the ECCC staff in 2008, Chaney attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she received master and bachelor's degrees in sports administration. She was also a standout member of the Lady Eagle basketball team, receiving most valuable player honors following the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons. In addition, she received the Female Student of the Year and Lady Eagle Award in 2006-07. She was also a member of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 Lady Eagle softball teams.

Chaney is a 2005 honor graduate of ECCC and a Hall of Fame member. In addition to receiving NJCAA All-American honors in softball and basketball, she was selected an NJCAA Academic All-American and finished second in the NJCAA Female Athlete of the Year competition.

She helped lead the 2004 and 2005 fast-pitch softball teams to MACJC Central Division championships en route to records of 26-14 and 34-5, respectively. Following the 2004 campaign, Chaney was one of only three freshmen and the only Mississippian selected second team NJCAA American. She received All-Region 23, MACJC All-State and MACJC All-Central Division honors following both seasons. In addition, she was selected the Lady Diamond Warriors' most valuable player in 2004 and received most valuable offensive and most valuable defensive player awards in 2005.

Chaney is a product of Newton County High School.

Moodys Striving to Meet 'Special Needs' With ECCC Scholarship



East Central Community College sophomore Emily Marler (center), a graduate of Morton High School, is the recipient of the Robert J. Moody, Jr. Special Education Scholarship. Also pictured are Bobby and Ann Moody of Louisville, who established the scholarship in honor of their son.

Their experience in raising a developmentally challenged son gave Bobby and Ann Moody of Louisville the insight into the impact that special education can have in determining quality of life, productivity, and maximum independence for special needs students.

"Because of our son, Robert, we recognized the importance in training teachers to work with children with special needs to make sure that these students have every opportunity to become productive citizens," said Ann.

To assist in that training, the Moodys, in 2010, established the Robert J. Moody, Jr., Special Education Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur, which is presented each year to a sophomore from Winston County, who is pursuing a degree with an emphasis in special education.

The scholarship is named in honor of Robert Jackson Moody, Jr. Robert was born on February 24, 1965 with no apparent problems but at age two-and-a-half, he started having severe, uncontrollable seizures. These seizures, along with other complications, eventually caused brain damage that left him developmentally challenged in many ways.

He was eventually able to navigate through the Mississippi public education system to receive a certificate of attendance in May 1984 and after residing in several area group homes has gained his independence and full-time employment.

"Desiring independence for himself, Rob-

ert became the first residence at The Mustard Seed, Inc., a privately run group home in Flowood, in 1986," Ann said. "He resided there and worked at the sheltered workshop for approximately six years before moving to a Hudspeth Center group home in Meridian. While there, Robert gained employment with Wal-Mart in their garden center. He currently resides in the Louisville Group Home also run by the Hudspeth Center. He transferred to the Louisville Wal-Mart and continues to work there as a door greeter."

Ann added, "Physically closer to his family, Robert is now able to interact with hometown family and friends regularly and attend his 'home' church, Good Hope Baptist, on a weekly basis. He continues to receive life skills and educational training through teachers and other workers at the Hudspeth Center facility. He is loved and inspired by all that know him."

Before establishing the scholarship, Robert J. (Bobby) Moody, Sr. served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1984 to 2002. As a freshman member of the education committee, he was able to get an emphasis placed on adequate education for special needs students. Also, as the Chairman of Public Health and Welfare for 12 years and as subcommittee chairman of appropriations for mental health and vocational rehabilitation, he was instrumental in pushing through and funding legislation to create more than 50 group homes and sheltered workshops strategically located throughout the state of Mis-

issippi. He was also instrumental in creating a job coach program to assist training special needs adults to work in the private sector.

The Moodys hope that recipients of the scholarship will continue the legacy they have begun.

"Our advice to scholarship recipients is to be prepared for the heartaches that go along with serving special needs individuals, but also anticipate immeasurable rewards.

We hope that they (the scholarship recipients) will continue the legacy we have begun to facilitate the productivity and self-worth of developmentally challenged individuals," Bobby said. "We appreciate East Central Community College's assistance in allowing us, through them, to encourage students to consider the opportunities and rewards of special education."

The 2012 recipient of the Robert J. Moody, Jr., Special Education Scholarship is Emily Marler, a graduate of Morton High School.

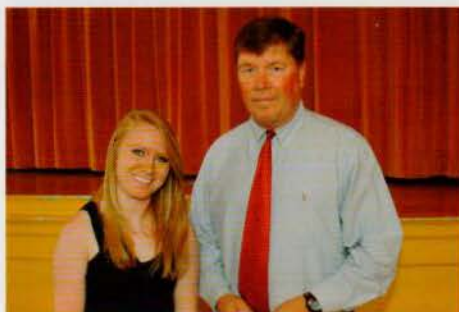
Scholarship awards were presented during the annual AT&T Scholarship Awards Program held June 8 in Huff Auditorium. A luncheon was held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria following the awards ceremony. During the 2012 event, 136 students received 111 endowed or annual scholarships totaling approximately \$74,000 in value.

Photos of additional scholarships recipients and donors, along with their respective high schools, are listed on the following pages.



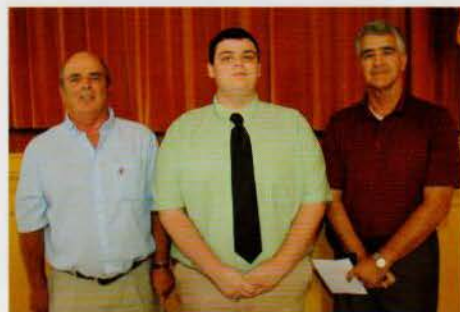
AT&T Scholarship

Recipient: Aderian Partain (center), Newton County High School; at left is his father, Robbie Partain
Donor representative: Corey Amis



Alumni Association Lifetime Membership

Recipient: Tiana Grover (left), Newton County Academy
Donor representative: ECCC Alumni Association President Bob Posey of Philadelphia



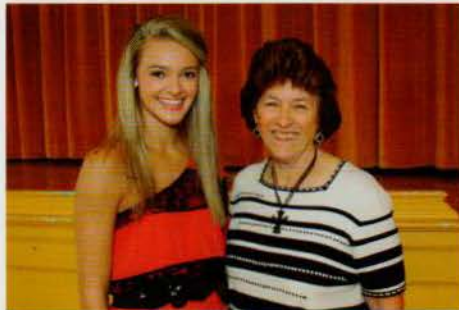
ATCO Loan Scholarship

Recipient: Conor Bell (center), Leake Central; at left is his father, Robert Bell
Donor representative: James McRae



Bank of Morton Scholarship

Recipients: (from left) Hannah McCurdy, Christin Polk and Aaron Cooper, all of Morton
Donor representative: Jackie Long



Clayton Blount Scholarship

Recipient: Casey Cherry (left), Union
Donor representative: Lois Blount Cooper



Pleas Clayton and Nancy Breazeale Blount Scholarship

Recipient: Kennedy Castleberry (left), Clarkdale
Donor representative: Lois Cooper



Board of Trustees Scholarship

Recipient: Sharley Hardin (left), Scott Central
Donor representative: Board member Prentiss Copeland



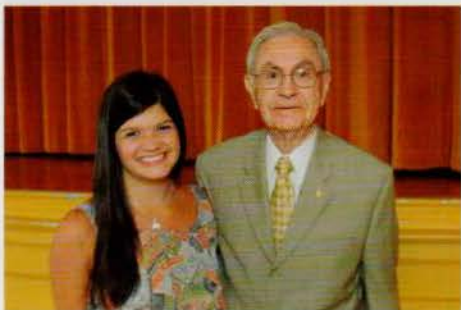
Iris Boggan Scholarship

Recipient: Shelby Johnston (left), Leake Academy
Donor representative: Ada Boggan McGrevey



Ernest Harrison Boswell Scholarship

Recipient: Wally Triplett (left), Nanih Waiya
Donor representative: Rebecca Boswell



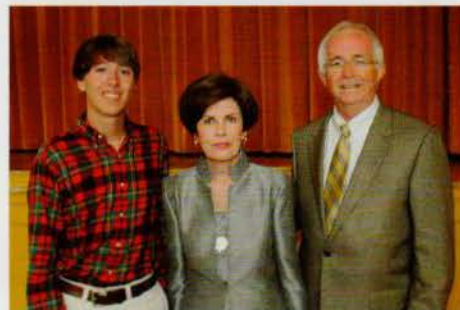
Dr. Frank and Bobbie McPhail Bowen Scholarship

Recipient: Hannah Jones (left), Leake Academy
Donor representative: Dr. Frank Bowen



Denver Brackeen Scholarship

Recipient: Katie Brackeen (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Charlotte Brackeen



Paul and Voncile Breazeale Ministerial Scholarship

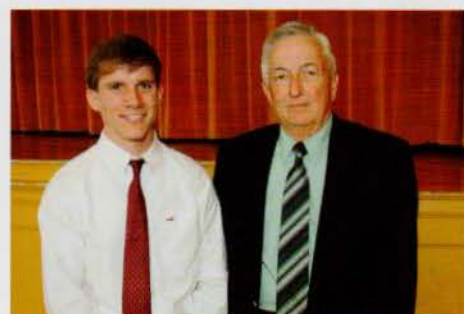
Recipient: William Meruvia (left), Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: Paul and Voncile Breazeale



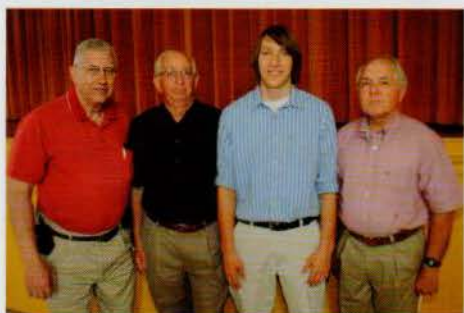
Landon Bryan Burt Memorial
Recipient: Shelby Parkman, Raleigh



Mable Moore Carr Educational Scholarship
Recipient: Kelsey Cox (left), Forest
Donor representative: David Carr



The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia Scholarship
Recipient: Will Thompson (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Ken Jones



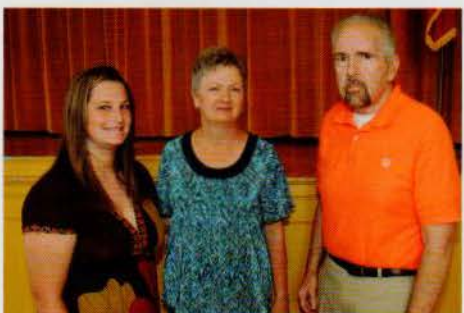
Class of 1964 Scholarship
Recipient: Jamie Elliott (third from left), Union
Donor representatives: (from left) Dr. Harold Aycock, Jerald Everett and John Boutwell.



Classes of 1957, 1958, & 1959 Scholarship
Recipient: Hannah Farmer (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Carol Vickers



Kenny Coleman EMS Scholarship
Recipient: Leslie Collins (left), Neshoba Central
Donor representative: Annette Watkins



W.R. Covington Scholarship
Recipient: Cassandra Dunaway (left), Noxapater
Donor representatives: Charlotte and Dr. Eddie Smith



Cox and Associates Insurance Scholarship
Recipient: Aaron Tucker (left), Leake Central; and Blake McBeth (right), Leake Academy
Donor representative: Aubry Cox



Frances Brown Crenshaw Nursing
Recipient: Blake Cochran (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Frances B. Crenshaw



Nellie Neill Cross Scholarship
Recipient: Jessica Stinson (left), Morton
Donor representative: Lois Cooper



Fred and Maudie Dallas Memorial
Recipient: Megan Montgomery (left), Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: (beginning second from left) Ed Dallas, Maurine Dallas Sims and Myeong Dallas



Aaron R. Davis Memorial
Recipient: Janet Ethridge (left) of Decatur
Donor representative: Patti Davis



Tony Dobbs Memorial Golf Scholarship
Recipient: Holli Nutt, Morton



Kyle Dunkerson Memorial Scholarship
Recipients: Lindsey Ezelle (left) and Lauren Ezelle (second from left), both of Newton County
Donor representatives: Angela and Jody Kyzar



EC Scholars James and Luvie Thomas Scholarship
Recipient: Haley Chapman, Newton County



Clyde B. and Flossie H. Goodson Scholarship
Recipient: Lane Taylor, Neshoba Central



R.O. and Bertha Hannah Scholarship
Recipient: Emilee Cox, Forest



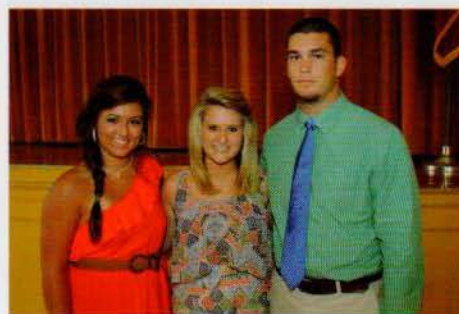
Richard L. Harris Scholarship
Recipient: Jeremy Carson (center), Newton County
Donor representatives: Dr. Harold S. Aycock (left, Class of 1964) in honor of Richard Harris (right)



Nancy Auline Hiatt Harris Scholarship
Recipient: Charlene Estes (center) of Philadelphia
Donor representatives: Johnie and Nancy Harris



Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship
Recipient: Ethan Pendergrass, Neshoba Central



Harrison Memorial Scholarships
Recipients: (from left) Jessica Parker and Caitlyn Sant, both of Newton County; and Kizer Ables of Newton County Academy.



Dan Harrison Memorial Scholarship
Recipients: Colt Killen (left), Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: Herman Stegall



Jeffrey G. and Kathy L. Hitt Memorial Scholarship
Recipient: Amanda Barnett (left), Union
Donor representatives: (beginning second from left) Gigi Hitt, Geraldine Hitt and Faye Henley



Hogue-Brantley Scholarship
Recipient: Jerrie Boatright (center), Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: Larry Hogue (left) and Tom-mye Rosenbaum



Albert F. and Fannie M. Hollingsworth Scholarship

Recipient: Brianna Parkman (left), Lake
Donor representative: Patricia Lowe



Hudspeth Scholarship

Recipient: Sam Gunnin, Noxapater



Martha Kate Tullis Hummel Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Tyler Gilmore (center), Newton County
Donor representatives: Don and Terraseta Hummel



Kelley Elizabeth Humphreys Nursing

Recipient: Leah Rigney (left) of Morton
Donor representative: Alta Kate Humphreys



S. Lebrun Hutchison

Recipient: Judson Bounds, Newton



Myrtle Hutchison Scholarship

Recipient: Bobbi Schwebel of Newton



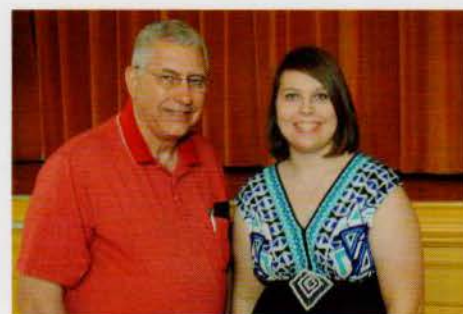
Johnson Family Engineering Scholarship

Recipient: Bryant Williams, Newton County



Johnson-Taylor Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Stephen May (left), Leake Academy
Donor representative: Susan Taylor



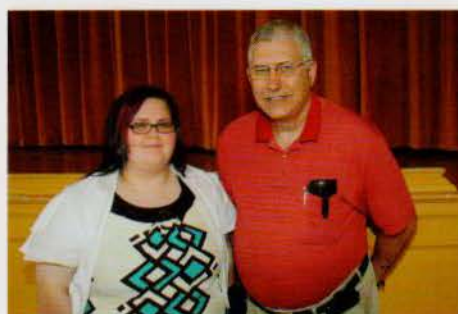
Johnson-Thomas Scholarship

Recipients: Heather Downs (right), Sylva-Bay Academy
Donor representative: Dr. Harold Aycock



La-Z-Boy Scholarship

Recipient: Trevor Ayllon (center), Newton County
Donor representatives: Tom Keith (left) and Julie Rowzee



James E. Land Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Ashley Bozeman (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Dr. Harold Aycock



Andrew Wilson Lathem Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Caitlyn Sant, Morton



**Frank Edwin and Nena Holt
Leatherwood Scholarship**

Recipient: Andrew Hanna, Newton County Academy



Thomas Rudolph Mayes Scholarship

Recipient: Jacob Oliver (center), Newton County
Donor representatives: Sid (right) and Jackie Etie



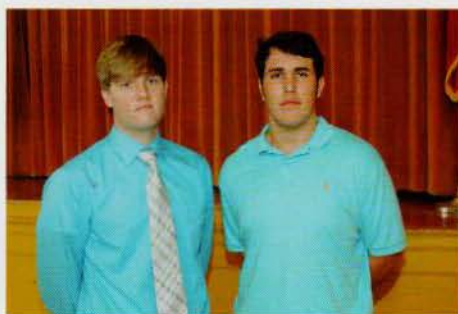
Russell McCann Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Matthew Evans (left), Forest
Donor representatives: Teresa Shannon



Dr. Margaret Mosal Scholarship

Recipient: Cain Prestage, Leake Academy



**MS Automotive Manufacturers'
Scholarships**

Recipient: Aaron Cooper (left), Morton, and Jack
Vowell, Louisville



MS Assoc. of Supervisors-Leake

Recipients: Tre Hunt (center) and Andrea Ezelle
(right), both of Leake Central; at left is Hunt's
mother, Angela Leflore



MS Assoc. of Supervisors-Neshoba

Recipients: (beginning second from left) Jonathan
Tindol, Leake Academy, and D.J. Creekmore and
Kayla Estes, both of Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: Neshoba County supervisors
Marty Sistrunk (left) and Kevin Cumberland (right)



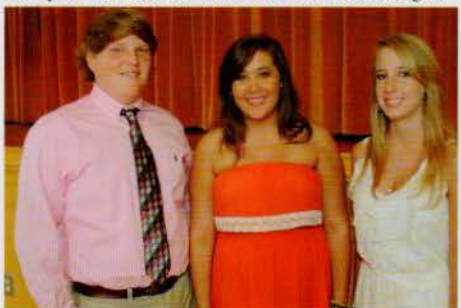
MS Assoc. of Supervisors-Newton

Recipients: (from left) Felicia Robinson and Katie
Bradley, both of Newton County, and Katrina Robin-
son, Newton
Donor representative: Newton County supervisor
Kenneth Harris



MS Assoc. of Supervisors-Scott

Recipient: (from left) Tyler Patrick, Morton; Emily
Price, Sebastopol; and Kelsey Cox, Forest



MS Assoc. of Supervisors-Winston

Recipients: (from left) Maxey Parker, Noxapater; and
Samantha Hill and Kayla Jenkins, both of Louisville



Ben Myers Memorial Scholarship

Recipients: Sam Lovorn (left) and Zach Peden, both
of Neshoba Central



New Directions Scholarship

Recipient: Jennifer Collins, Newton



Stella W. Newsome Scholarship
 Recipient: Edward Boudreaux of Decatur



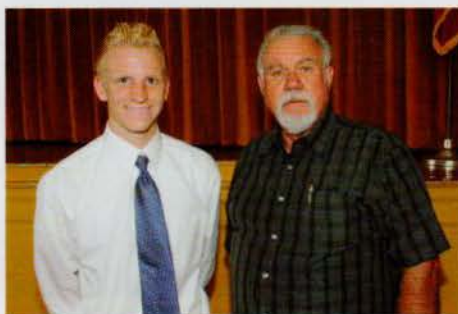
Newton Rotary Club Scholarships
 Recipient: Emily Jacome-Cluff (left) and Chandler Smith (center), both of Newton County
 Donor representative: Tyler McCaughn



Charles P. and Bonnie S. Philips Scholarship
 Recipient: Sam Ellinburg (center), Newton County
 Donor representatives: Charles and Glenda Malone



Roscoe C. Pugh Memorial Scholarship
 Recipient: Meghan Johnson, Leake Academy



Shirley Renaud Memorial Scholarship
 Recipient: Jesse Vaughn (left), Newton County
 Donor representative: Joe Renaud



Regina Gail Gibbs Rigby Memorial Scholarship
 Recipient: Brady Power, Forest



Ruth Round Volunteer Scholarship
 Recipient: Alex Meador, Newton County



Elva Smith Sigrest Memorial Scholarship
 Recipient: Daniel Chim, Forest



Dr. Omar Simmons Memorial Scholarship
 Recipients: Patrick Sistrunk (left), Sebastopol
 Donor representative: Angie Burks



Willis W. 'Bubba' Smith Scholarship
 Recipient: Paige Wall, Newton County



Jay B. and Frances Harris Smith Scholarship
 Recipient: Brooke Massey, Winston Academy



Southern AgCredit Scholarship
 Recipient: Aaron Tucker, Leake Central



Jacob Stovall Memorial Scholarship
Recipient: LaJoya Griffin, Philadelphia



Wallace Strickland Rush Health Systems Scholarship
Recipient: Madison Herrington (left), Union
Donor representative: Herman Stegall



Taylor Advanced Welding Scholarships
Recipient: Daniel Thomas (second from left), Winston Academy, and Raymond Farlow (third from left), Neshoba Central
Donor representatives: Chuck Donald (left) and Rod Shealy



Larry B. Therrell Memorial Scholarship
Recipient: Aaron Shepard (left), Leake Academy
Donor representative: Paula Therrell



Thornton-Emerson Electric Scholarship
Recipient: Tanner Fortenberry, Union



Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship
Recipient: Alexander Lee (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Jeannette Thrash



U.S. Electrical Motors Scholarship
Recipient: Emma Burton, Union



James M. Vance Scholarship
Recipients: Ian Lanthrip (center), Sebastopol
Donor representatives: Patsy Vance (left) and Jeff Vance



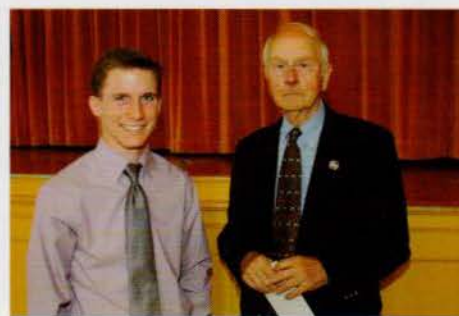
Ovid S. and Carol Vickers Scholarship
Recipient: Addreonna Seger (center), Newton
Donor representatives: Ovid and Carol Vickers



Capt. Charles E. Ward Scholarship
Recipients: Jamere Eichelberger, Louisville



Warrior Golf Classic Scholarship
Recipients: Caleb Woods (left), Leake Central; and Rayanne Craven (center), Newton County Academy
Donor representative: Bob Posey



Weems Family Scholarship
Recipient: Russ Thompson (left), Newton County
Donor representative: Dr. W. Lamar Weems



**Harvey and Martha Wheeler
Pre-Pharmacy/Pre-Med Scholarship**

Recipient: Cain Prestage (center), Leake Academy
Donor representatives: Dr. William E. Wheeler
(right) and Roberta Wheeler Byars



J.C. White Scholarship

Recipient: Daniel Myrick, Northwest Rankin



Wilks-Palmer Scholarship

Recipient: Nan Hartness, Winston Academy



**General William Patrick Wilson
Scholarship**

Recipient: Allyson Loper, Leake Academy



McPhail Joins JUCO Sports Hall of Fame

East Central Community College alumna Wanda McPhail (Class of 1971) was among inductees into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame at the 2012 ceremony held April 24 at the Muse Center on the Hinds Community College campus in Pearl. The Meridian Community College tennis coach is shown with MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott (left) after receiving the prestigious honor. McPhail has served as women's and men's head tennis coach since 2000, winning 15 Region 23 championships and nine MACJC state titles. Both her men's and women's teams have qualified for their respective NJCAA national tournaments for 10 consecutive years and finished among the nation's top 15 teams on multiple occasions. McPhail has been named "Coach of the Year" by the Mississippi Association of Tennis Coaches four times and is a recipient of the prestigious Herschel Stephens Award, presented to coaches whose teams have qualified for the national tournament at least five times. An English instructor, McPhail's players have consistently excelled in the classroom. Her 2008 men's team recorded the highest GPA in the nation at 3.68. McPhail currently serves as president of the National Junior College Women's Tennis Coaches Association and is a member of the national ITA Board. Prior to joining the MCC staff, McPhail was a standout basketball, volleyball, tennis and cheerleading coach for West Lauderdale High School. In volleyball, she amassed a 78-25 career mark, and in tennis, she coached two state champions and a Class 3-A state runner-up team. As a collegian, McPhail enjoyed a stellar career in basketball and tennis at ECCC and later starred for Mississippi University for Women in volleyball and badminton. She was selected for the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.

Alumni:

Send Us Your News!

Email news items, births, weddings and obituaries
(including your class year) to:

sholling@eccc.edu,

bjohnston@eccc.edu

or

mmcleod@eccc.edu



MAC Coaches Hall of Fame Inductees

Former East Central Community College head football coach Willie Coats (left) of Petal and alumna Lucy Young (Class of 1971) of Vicksburg were among inductees of the Mississippi Association of Colleges Hall of Fame during the 40th annual ceremony held at Jackson Hilton June 22, 2012. They are shown with ECCC alumnus Wert Spiva (Class of 1989), MAC president, who serves as girls' and boys' head basketball coach at Coldwater High School. Coats led the Warriors during the 1995, 1996 and 1997 campaigns. The 1996 squad went 10-1, which included a 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia Community College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Classic in Brunswick, Ga. The Warriors were ranked fifth in the final NJCAA poll that year and Coats was named MACJC Football Coach of the Year. Coats' first stint at ECCC was as an assistant to the late Ken Pouncey, who served as head coach from 1967-81. Coats also coached baseball at EC. Coats' coaching career spanned four decades and included stops at Clara, Seminary, Lumberton, Decatur, Quitman, Hattiesburg, Newton County Academy and Choctaw Central on the high school level; Pearl River Community College; and Delta State University. He was named Apache Conference Coach of the Year in 1965 and Choctaw Conference Coach of the Year in 1978 (when his Decatur team won the conference championship). His Hattiesburg team won the Shrimp Bowl and South State titles; and his Pearl River CC team captured a MACJC South State championship. Coats was selected to the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999 and the University of Southern Mississippi Hall of Fame in 2001. Coats was a three-sport standout at Stonewall High School before continuing his athletic career at USM, where he was a standout in football and baseball. Young spent her entire 36-year coaching career at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, where her teams won championships in slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball, boys' and girls' soccer and boys' and girls' tennis. She was honored by the MAC as Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1999, and by the National High School Athletic Association Region 5 in 1985 and 1992. She was recognized as the "Winningest Coach of the Year" at the end of her soccer coaching career in 1999. Young was also named Coach of the Year in soccer, slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball on numerous occasions by the Vicksburg Evening Post. She was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. Young is also a graduate of Morton High School and Mississippi State University.

ECCC Culinary Instructor Karrh Hopes to Establish Cook's Garden

When East Central Community College culinary arts instructor Barry Karrh came on board in August, he was challenged to institute a Cook's Garden as part of the two-year program.

"I am trying to include a Cook's Garden as part of the hands-on training within the ECCC Culinary Arts Program," said Karrh. "I am seeking donations of materials, whether they are bricks, rocks, gravel, sand, top soil, mulch, plants, seeds, lumber, adhesives, mortar, nails, screws, or even monetary donations."

According to Karrh, students enrolled in culinary courses would tend the garden and use the bounty from it to prepare dishes as part of their coursework.

Once the building materials are aquired, Karrh has enlisted the help of the US Army Corps of Engineers to help provide the labor for the construction.

"At this time, I have it on good authority that they are willing to schedule us as a community service project and provide the labor. All we have to do is, of course, have the area cleared, materials at hand and file the appropriate paperwork," Karrh said.

For more information or to make a donation to the project, contact Karrh at 601-635-6252, Wayne Eason, Director of Workforce Education, at 601-635-6211; or Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director of Foundation and Alumni Relations at 601-635-6327.

ECCC Warrior Golf Classic Nets Record Amount for Scholarships



Golfers representing Southern Pine Electric Power Association captured top honors in the 11th annual Warrior Golf Classic held June 28, 2012, at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw. Recently retired ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (left) is shown presenting the Corporate Division championship trophy to team members (second from left) Chad Lewis of Decatur, Justin Duvall of Newton, and Brian Burns and Jason Mangum, both of Decatur, who carded a 19-under par 53 on the Azaleas course to also win the championship flight. At right is Dr. Billy Stewart, who officially began his tenure as ECCC's eighth president on July 1, 2012.

Area students continue to be the top prize winners as a result of East Central Community College's annual Warrior Golf Classic, which this year netted a record \$9,337 for scholarships, according to event organizer Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, who serves as executive director for Foundation and Alumni Relations.

The 2012 event was held June 28 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw and attracted approximately 80 golfers who battled the heat and the always challenging but picturesque Azaleas course. Numerous businesses and individuals also provided financial support through various sponsorships.

"We want to express a big thank-you to all the golfers and sponsors who helped make this year's Warrior Golf Classic the most successful in its 11-year history," said Dr. Hollingsworth. "Thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends of the College, nearly \$82,000 has been raised to provide financial assistance to area students attending EC. Again, thanks to everyone for your support of this very worthwhile event."

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Winning top honors in the four-person scramble were golfers representing Southern Pine Electric Power Association, who claimed the Corporate Division as well as the overall championship. Justin Duvall of Newton and partners Chad Lewis, Brian Burns and Jason Mangum, all of Decatur, carded a 19-under par 53 to claim the 2012

Classic trophy, presented by recently retired ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin and new President Dr. Billy Stewart.

Community Bank (Forest) finished second with 56. Team members included Tim Leitaker of Carthage, Chance Carter of Brandon and Steve Gibson and Randy Dilley, both of Forest.

Also posting a 56 but finishing third following a scorecard playoff were golfers representing Howard Industries, who included Rusty Thoms and Jay Witcher, both of Madison; and Shane Lowrimore and Gordon McCloskey, both of Hattiesburg.

FIRST FLIGHT

Glynn Griffing and Associates captured the First Flight with a 61. Team members included Glynn Griffing of Jackson, Dr. Milton Walker and Brent Walker, both of Brandon; and Haywood Reeves of Forest. Finishing second with a 62 were golfers representing First Financial Bank (Team 1), who included Gayden Bell, Terry Thomas and Ty Johnston, all of Carthage; and Steven Cameron of El Dorado, Ark. Also with a 62 but placing third due to the scorecard playoff were members of First Financial Bank Team #2, who included Will Stuart and Brad Ogletree, both of Carthage; and Jerry Bullard and Melissa Jerry, both of El Dorado, Ark.

SECOND FLIGHT

Taking the Second Flight title with a 68 were members of the Drs. John and Betsy Mann team, which also included Alan Parkes

of Union and Dale Joyner of Philadelphia, where the Manns also reside. Also carding a 68 but finishing second due to a scorecard playoff were golfers representing Tyson Foods, Inc. in Forest, whose team included the two-man team of Jimmy Robinson and Buddy Parsons, both of Forest. Finishing third with a 70 was the La-Z-Boy South, Inc. team, whose members included Ronnie Poythress of Meridian, Randy McDill and Chris Davis, both of Decatur; and Kevin Rigdon of Union.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Other participating teams (scores not available) were Cox and Associates Insurance (Aubry Cox, Jimmie Bell, Sam Waggoner and Larry Waggoner, all of Carthage); Sequel Electrical Supply (Eric Brewer and Artie Foreman, both of Little Rock; Sean Mowdy, Union; and Tim Pilgrim, Philadelphia); La-Z-Boy South (Team 2) Don Mather, Decatur; Danny Simoneau, Louin; Brian Waddell, Philadelphia; and Tom Keith, Decatur; First Financial Bank (Team 3) Billy Mack Stuart, N. L. Carson and Scooter Culpepper, all of Carthage; and Chris Hegi, El Dorado, Ark.; Newton Junction (Joey Walters and Michael Graham, both of Union; Neil Pettigrew, Philadelphia; and Wayne Heilbronner, Kosciusko); Valley Services, Inc. (Tau Iosia and Jim Humphreys, both of Meridian; and Marty Puckett and Randy Roberts, both of Bran-

See GOLF, Next Page



EC Trustees Honored for Service

Receiving special recognition for their years of service as members of the East Central Community Board of Trustees were Rebecca Farris (second from left) of Morton and David Byars (third from left) of Philadelphia who were presented plaques of appreciation at the 2012 MACJC Trustees Conference held in July. Farris has served 25 years and Byars has accumulated 10 years of service. The longtime trustees were also honored at the ECCC Trustees' August meeting on the Decatur campus and are shown with Board Chairman Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth (left) of Lake and ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart.

GOLF (continued from previous page)

don); Polycom/BT Conferencing (Dr. Billy Stewart, Chris Clark and Ronnie Westbrook, all of Decatur; and Joseph Knight, Union); IN Sports, Inc. (Greg Nowell, Jason Fulton and Jim Eakes, all of Philadelphia; and Wes Kight, Louisville); Stifel Nicolaus and Company (Chris Harris and Cole Harris, both of Decatur; Barry Boatner, Meridian; and Lowery McGee, Hickory); and Amatrol LMS/Industrial Training Solutions (Roger Whitlock and Aaron Morris, both of Union; Chris Crawford, Ridgeland; and Joe Barrett, Decatur).

TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

The Warrior Golf Classic is sponsored by the East Central Community College Alumni Association and hosted by the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club on the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, a Development of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Gold Corporate sponsors were Community Bank (Forest), Cox and Associates Insurance

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Silver Corporate sponsors included Boswell Media/Kicks 96 (Carthage).

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Team sponsors were Amatrol LMS/Industrial Training Solutions, La-Z-Boy South (Newton), Newton Junction (Newton), Sequel

Electrical Supply (Meridian) and Stifel Nicolaus and Company (Meridian).

Drive the Middle Contest sponsor was Birdies for Charity (Jackson.)

Par 3s Contest sponsor was the ECCC Alumni Association.

Food and Beverages provided by Jerald and Rita Everett (Clinton) and Valley Services, Inc. (Jackson).

Door prizes were provided by John Boutwell (Clinton), Ann Burkes (Decatur), ECCC Alumni Association, ECCC Bookstore, Jerald and Rita Everett (Clinton), Flo Henley (Starkville), Dr. Bob Tom Johnson (Forest), La-Z-Boy South (Newton) and Jeanette Thrash (Decatur).

For information on the 2013 Warrior Golf Classic, contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, 601-635-6327 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327. Her e-mail address is sholling@eccc.edu.



Ribbon-Cutting Held for Molly McGee Gold Room

Molly McGee (second from left) of Hickory cuts a ribbon to officially unveil the recently renovated East Central Community College dining room named in her honor during a ceremony held May 4, 2012, on the Decatur campus. A portrait of the longtime cafeteria staff member is also displayed in the Molly McGee Gold Room located in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Pictured with the honoree are (from left) former ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin; Tom King, ECCC Food Service Director for Valley Services, Inc.; Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, former Vice President for Instruction; Mickey Vance, Vice President for Business Operations; and Maudean Sanders, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. "Ms. Molly" as she is affectionately known to students and staff members has served East Central for nearly 37 years. A ceremony was held earlier this year to commemorate the naming of the Molly McGee Gold Room as approved by the ECCC Board of Trustees.

Harris Joins JUCO Sports Hall of Fame

East Central Community College alumnus Richard Harris (right) of Hickory is congratulated by ECCC athletic director Chris Harris following his induction into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame at the 2012 ceremony held April 24 at the Hinds Community College Muse Center in Pearl. Richard Harris was a standout basketball player at Hickory High School, ECCC and Delta State University and followed his success on the hardwood as a high school coach, capturing five state titles and a winning percentage of more than .700. He led girls' squads to state titles at Hickory in 1963, 1964 and 1974 and at Decatur in 1990. He led the Newton County Academy boys' team to the 1997 state championship. Harris is also a member of the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame, Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame and the DSU Alumni Coaches Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of numerous other coaching honors and awards. Harris is among the 15 members of the Sixth Class of the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame. Chris Harris is a relative of the new inductee and began his coaching career on Harris' staff at Hickory.



Alumni News Briefs

50s

Susan Donohue ('54) of Hattiesburg was honored as a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator at the organization's international convention April 12-14, 2012 in Nashville. She serves as general education director at the Forrest County Center of Pearl River Community College. Donohue taught in the Hattiesburg Public School District and a then William Carey College before coming to PRCC in 1983 as a social sciences instructor in Poplarville. She retired in 1999 but returned to work for Pearl River on a part-time basis at the Forrest County Center. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Millsaps College and the master of arts from George Peabody College, now Vanderbilt University. She has completed additional study at Michigan State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. She is originally from Union. She and her husband have two sons and seven grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Larry Adams ('57) of Jackson celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on July 16, 2012.

60s

Larry Hogue ('61) of Leakesville recently served as president of the Greene County Rotary Club and received the Distinguished Service Award, primarily for the "Go Greene" program, encouraging shopping in Greene County. He also received the Paul Harris Fellow designation. The fellowship involved a \$1,000 donation from the Greene County club to the Rotary International Foundation in his name.

Jimmy and Amanda Lovorn ('62) of Louisville celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 17, 2012.

Robert J. "Bobby" Moody, Sr. ('62) and Ann Crowson Moody ('62) of Louisville celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 20, 2012.

Bob ('62) and Sandra Thames ('62) celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary on May 29, 2012. They have four children and five grandchildren.

70s

Wanda McPhail ('71) of Collinsville was honored as the 2012 Wilson/ITA National Coach of the Year on May 6, 2012, at the JUCO ITA Awards Banquet in Tyler, Texas.

80s

Wert Spiva ('89) was named 2012 Coach of the Year on The Clarion-Ledger's All-State boys' team after leading his Coldwater High School boys' basketball team to a second state title in four years. Spiva, who recently observed 20 years at the Tate County school, has led the girls' basketball team to three state championships. Spiva is a Winston County native.

90s

Brian Jones (Class of 1991) was introduced as the new head baseball coach at Starkville High School during a press conference held April 26, 2012. Jones was a pitcher/short stop at Neshoba Central High School before continuing his career at ECCC and Belhaven University. He spent one season as an assistant coach at South Leake High School before working as an assistant coach at East Webster. He served four seasons as an assistant at Neshoba Central before serving the past 12 years as head coach.

00s

Nanah Waiya High School head baseball coach Tyler Rogers (Class of 2003) was selected State Class 1-A Coach of the Year after leading the Warriors to the 2012 state championship. Rogers' squad has been undefeated in division play the past three seasons and sports an overall 61-24 record. His Warriors also won the state title in 2011.

Marley Smith Burns ('05) of Union joined the staff of Union Discount Drugs. She is a graduate of the Ole Miss School of Pharmacy.

10s

Former Diamond Warrior pitcher Colton Mitchell ('11) of Delta State University was a finalist for the 2012 Ferris Trophy, awarded annually to the state of Mississippi's most outstanding collegiate baseball player. The award was presented to Mississippi State University pitcher Chris Stratton. Mitchell, a 6-0, 190-pound southpaw, made headlines with a perfect game against New Orleans on April 14, 2012. The Lake native fanned seven batters and did not allow a UNO runner to reach base in seven innings of work. He is recognized as the first DSU pitcher to notch a perfect game and just the fourth player to do so in Gulf South Conference history. Mitchell helped lead the Statesmen to the finals of Division II World Series.

Lisa Jay ('11) of Newton was recently named Branch Team Leader for Regions Bank in Newton. She worked the previous eight years in the newspaper industry in Newton County.

In Memoriam

(East Central Community College extends sympathies to families of the following alumni, friends and former faculty/staff members.)

Leila Eugenia Thigpen Elder ('37) April 21, 2012
Frances Gaines Blum Slagle ('38) May 11, 2012
Coy Hailey Watkins ('43) December 27, 2011
Elizabeth Barnett Welch ('44) May 20, 2012
Marijo James Denson ('47) April 17, 2012
Oral Lee Carter ('48) July 11, 2012
V. B. Shepherd ('48) March 31, 2012
Dr. Howard Carlton McMillin ('50) August 23, 2012
William Wayne Golden ('53) April 1, 2012
Billy Ray Fleming ('54) April 29, 2012
James L. "Buzz" Crosby ('55) April 15, 2012
James M. Vance ('57) May 2, 2012

Billy Frank Arledge ('59) March 27, 2012
Sara McGee Moreau ('59) May 20, 2012
Davis French ('67) April 15, 2012
Isaac Lamar Blalock ('84), Sr. August 8, 2012
John Thomas Haggard ('87)
Tommy Spillman, Jr. (former EC football coach) April 19, 2012
Arielle Skye Apperson and Joshua Seth Arley Jenkins, May 19, 2012

Weddings

Ashley Nicole Bishop and Phillip Larkin Vance, August 4, 2012
Julie Catherine Boswell and Matthew Warren Stockton - July 7, 2012
Shaina Nicole Breedlove and Adam Corey McLemore, May 19, 2012
Haley Rebecca Culppepper and Robert Stanley Faulk, June 2, 2012
India Leighann Dickerson and Andrew William Nichols, July 7, 2012
Jessica Renee' Edwards and Chad Weldy Stokes, May 26, 2012
Mary Alli French and Corey Keith Lewis, May 19, 2012
Anna Elizabeth Fulton and Daniel Cody Spence, June 2, 2012
Tanya Denise Green and Sammy David Easley, April 21, 2012
Bonnie Kathryn Hailey and Jesse Lee Holloway - July 14, 2012
Jennifer Magan Key and Benjamin Charles Stokes, May 12, 2012
Mary Katherine Leming and Joshua Lee Murphy - June 9, 2012
Laurin Nicole McDaniel and Daniel Robert Overstreet - February 18, 2012
Kayla Christine Meaders and Todd Bradley Terrell, April 28, 2012
Tiffany Michelle Neese and Austin Clay Vaughn, May 12, 2012
Lauren Nicholas and Hunter Vick - June 9, 2012
Amanda Leigh Partridge and Wade Phillips Akins - July 14, 2012
Danielle Carol Reed and Adam Kirkland Griffin - June 2, 2012
Sarah Elizabeth Roseberry and John Edward Petty - July 14, 2012
Hanna Marie Sizemore and William Brandon Hughes, May 5, 2012
Kandace Shea Smith and Lucas James Sanders, May 5, 2012
Savannah Marie Smith and Charles Eugene Glover, Jr. - September 1, 2012
Tiffany Brooke Thomas and Brian Adam Byrd - June 30, 2012
Tia Vickers and Daniel Parker - June 23, 2012
Morgan Whitlock and Aaron Morris, June 9, 2012
Hannah Carol Watkins and Richmond Zay Lewis, June 9, 2012
Rebecca Louise Watkins and Jacob Cheyenne Parker, April 21, 2012
Jamie Lee Williams and Caleb Breland, June 9, 2012
Britni Nicole Wright and Jay Stokes, May 5, 2012

Births

John ('03) and Jennifer (Kersh, '03) Williams, Ella Jewel, July 7, 2012
Marty ('90) and Stacey (Smith, '93) Hollingsworth, Seth James, July 19, 2012

Alumna Julie Latham Selected Scott County Teacher of the Year

Following 33 years of dedicated service as an educator, Bettye Mae Jack Middle School American History fifth grade teacher Julie Latham was named Teacher of the Year 2011-12 for Scott County School District by Superintendent Bingham Moncrief.

"Mrs. Julie Latham is an outstanding teacher who has served Scott County Schools for numerous years," Moncrief said. "A graduate of Morton High School, she has not only come back to her home school but also has been a great supporter of the school throughout the years. We are blessed to have educators such as Mrs. Latham working our district."

BMJ Principal Marcia Purvis echoed Moncrief's sentiments regarding Latham's worthiness of this honor.

In her recommendation letter to Moncrief, she described Latham's credentials as impeccable.

"Due to her high expectation and her dedication each year that she has taught at our school, Mrs. Latham has helped students make considerable progress in their academic grades as they make transition from fourth grade at Morton Elementary to fifth grade at Bettye Mae Jack."

Purvis described Latham as "capable and willing to continuously learn and relearn effective teaching strategies and learning styles."

She said Latham, a 1977 graduate of East Central Junior College, is a positive role model not only for her students, but also for her fellow co-workers and others she comes in contact with.

"She is fully supportive in our students' endeavors to grow and achieve academically," Purvis wrote.

Latham said she was surprised she was chosen for the district's highest honor for teachers.

"I was very shocked and excited at the same time," Latham said of receiving the award. "It is a big honor for me to be chosen as teacher of the year. It's definitely the highlight of my teaching career."

Latham said she has had several milestones in her career, including earning her master's degree, national board certification, being inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame, and being chosen to attend several national workshops. She described this honor as the "pinnacle" of her career. Latham credits lessons from her parents for her drive as an educator.

"I must confess, when I was young, my parents taught me to be the best that I could be not for rewards, but for myself," Latham said. "They taught me to 'study to show myself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.' So in all things that I do, I try to do my best."



Latham said it is also important to her that her students also strive to do their best.

"I really enjoy when it seems that a 'light-bulb' has been turned on," she said. "Such as when a student says, 'ooh, I get it!!!' I also enjoy when I see former students who tell me they miss my class. 'I really learned a lot in your class.' I also enjoy seeing former basketball players who succeed in higher levels. I had a parent tell me just yesterday that her son had really come to enjoy history and said they were going to several Civil War sites this summer—that's why I love teaching."

Throughout her career, Latham has attended workshops throughout the United States to further her knowledge of American History and share with her students each year.

Latham said she has a wonderful support team including other faculty and staff.

"My team of fifth grade teachers means so much to me," Latham said. "They are always doing or saying things that show they care about our school, students, and our teaching team. So as I tell my basketball teams, there are no 'I's' in team. We work together to achieve the goal."

Latham said her husband of 33 years, Richard Latham has been a foundation to her success.

"Richard has laughed with me through the good times and cried with me through the rough times," she said. "He is my true soul mate."

Latham said her daughter, Alicia Elliot, and son, Erik Latham, have helped her throughout the years with many projects and also been there to support her.

And, of course, Latham said her parents have always been her "greatest fan."

"They have guided me throughout my life and still today help me with projects or encouraging words," she said.

Latham is also a grandmother of Jackson Elliot.

Latham also serves as the seventh and eighth grade girls' basketball coach.

During her time at ECJC, she played on the state championship basketball team and won state singles champion in tennis.

"I had so many good times at EC," Latham said remembering her time on the Decatur campus. "I often wished it was a four year college."

She was president of the Student Body Association and a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union, where she served as a summer missionary. She was selected as a Hall of Fame recipient, class favorite, was salutatorian of her class, and received the best defensive player basketball award and the tennis award.

Latham said she had many professors who influenced her life from her time at ECJC including Lucille Wood, her basketball coach; Alice Pouncey, Ovid Vickers, Shelby Harris, Bruce Peterson, Raymond McMullan and Dean Denver Brackeen.

She graduated from Mississippi College - where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, and Mississippi State University. She received her National Board Certification in 2002.

She was named Student Teacher of the Year in 1979; BMJ Teacher of the Year in 1987; BMJ Social Studies Lead Teacher; received the Local VFW Service Award in 2002; served as girls' basketball coach at BMJ for 23 years with six undefeated seasons, and served church secretary and assistant pianist for Bethlehem Baptist Church.

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**Return form to: ECCC Alumni Association,
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NJCAA Women's Soccer Academic Team of the Year

East Central Community College's Lady Warrior soccer program has once again been recognized for academic excellence by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The 2011 squad (above) was named NJCAA Women's Soccer Academic Team of the Year by compiling an overall 3.48 grade point average. The national recognition represents the third such honor for the ECCC women's soccer program in its brief seven-year history. Team members and their respective high schools include (first row, from left) forward Carrie Rushing (3) and midfielder/keeper Wendy McCracken (5), both of Newton County; defender T'Molia Curry-Jordan (6), Tuscaloosa Central; keeper Lauren Shimfessel (1), Newton County Academy; midfielders Lynea Moreland (7) of Newton County and Baleigh Germany (9) of West Lauderdale; and defender Claire Tadlock (10), Newton County; (second row, from left) defender Erin Thornton (11), Newton County; forward Jalesia Howell-el (12), Tuscaloosa Central; defender Nikki Cumberland (13), midfielder Emily Lucy (14) and midfielder/defender Cayla Engle (15), all of Newton County; defender Holly Doyle (16), McNairy Central, Ramer, Tenn.; forward Kelsey Tadlock (17), Newton County; midfielder Kristen Nettles (18), East Rankin Academy; and defender Haley Covert (20), West Lauderdale; and (back row, from left) managers Ryan Moore of Enterprise, Kyle Gentry of Neshoba Central, Kenneth Smith of Greenville St. Joe and Tiana Grover of Newton County Academy; and head coach Kenneth Thompson.